

MARVEL
COMICS
GROUP

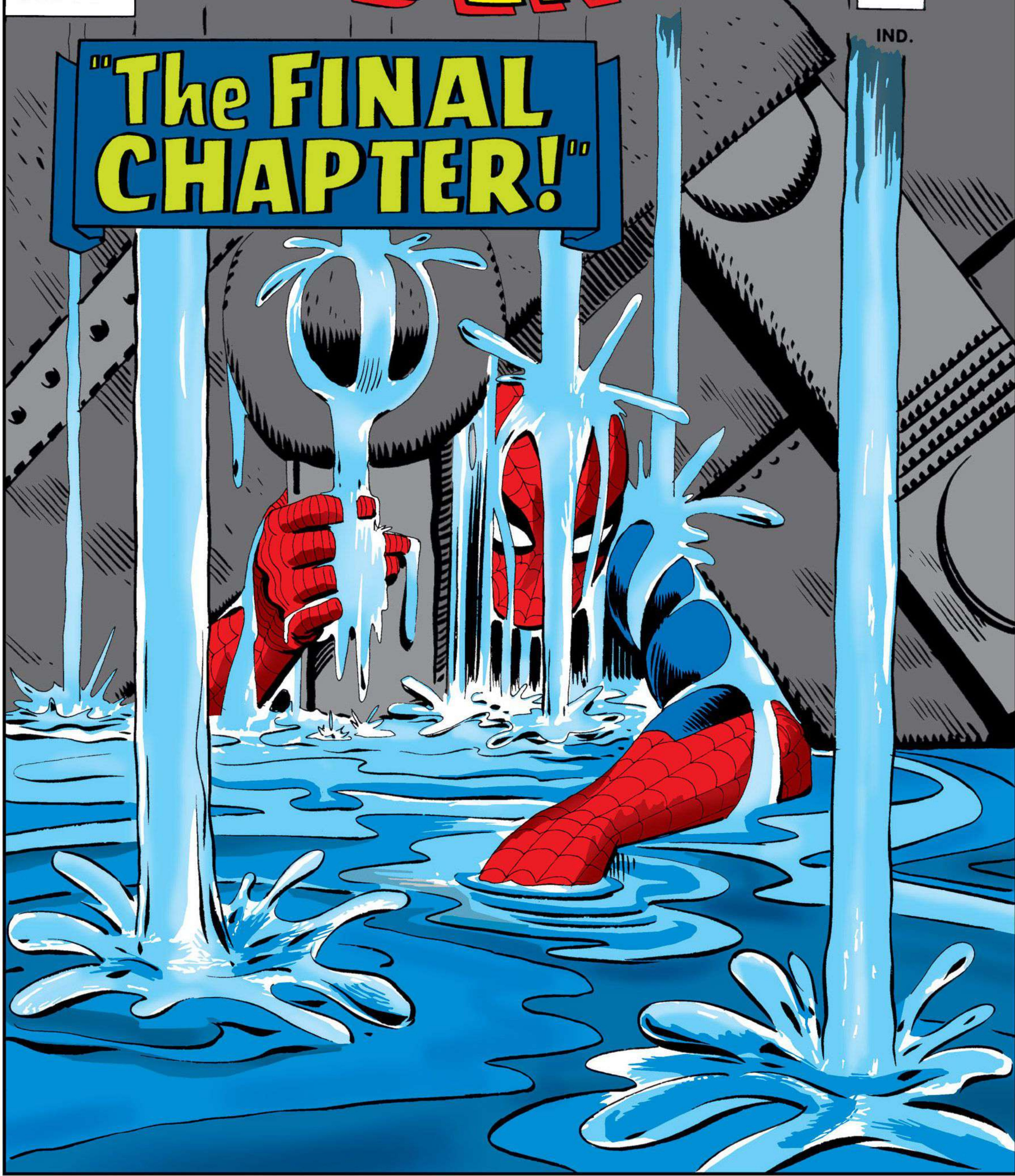
the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

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"The FINAL
CHAPTER!"



THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN!

"THE FINAL CHAPTER!"

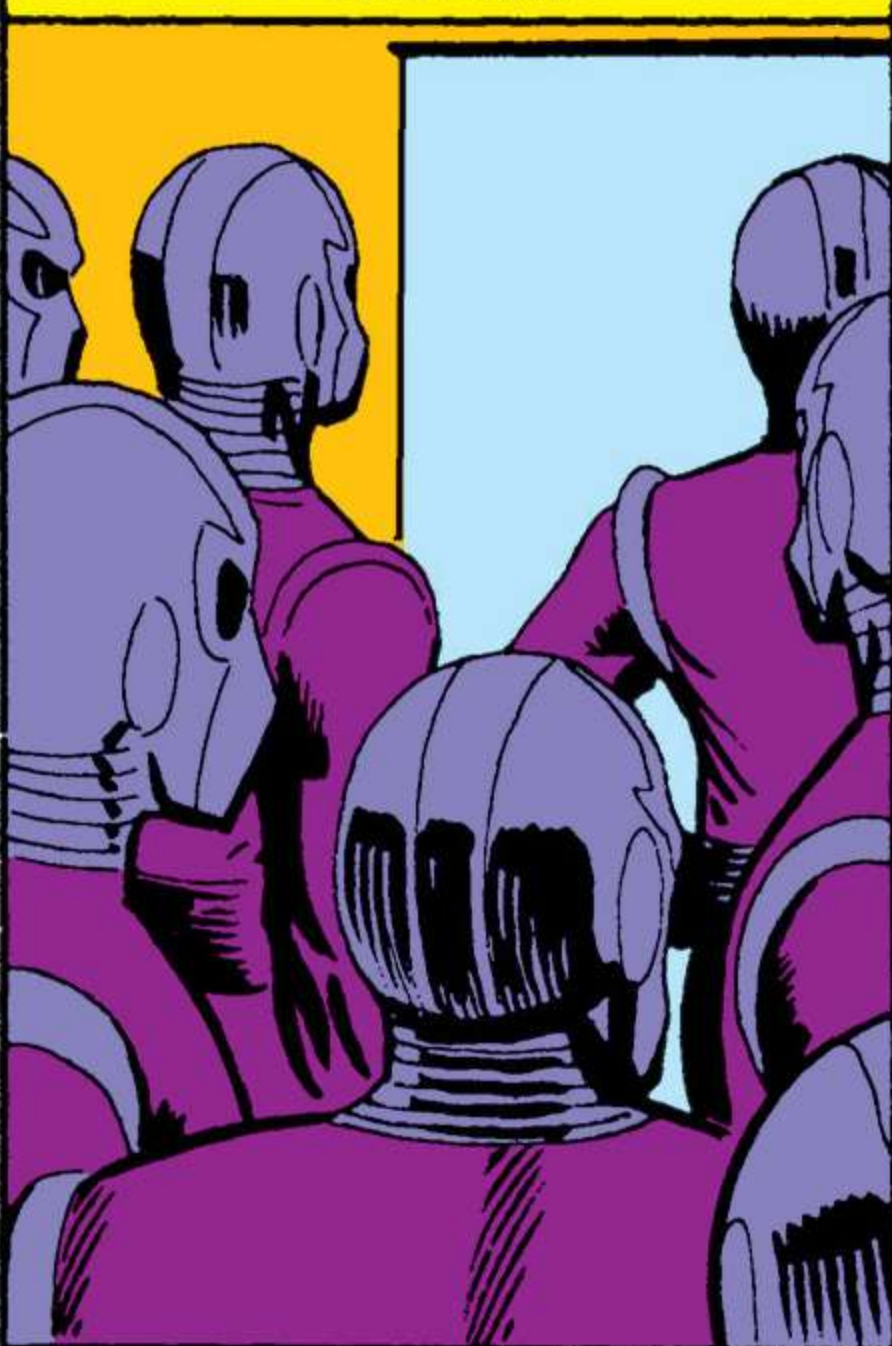
AS PETER PARKER'S AUNT MAY LIES DYING IN THE HOSPITAL, VICTIM OF THE EFFECTS OF RADIOACTIVITY IN HER BLOOD STREAM...



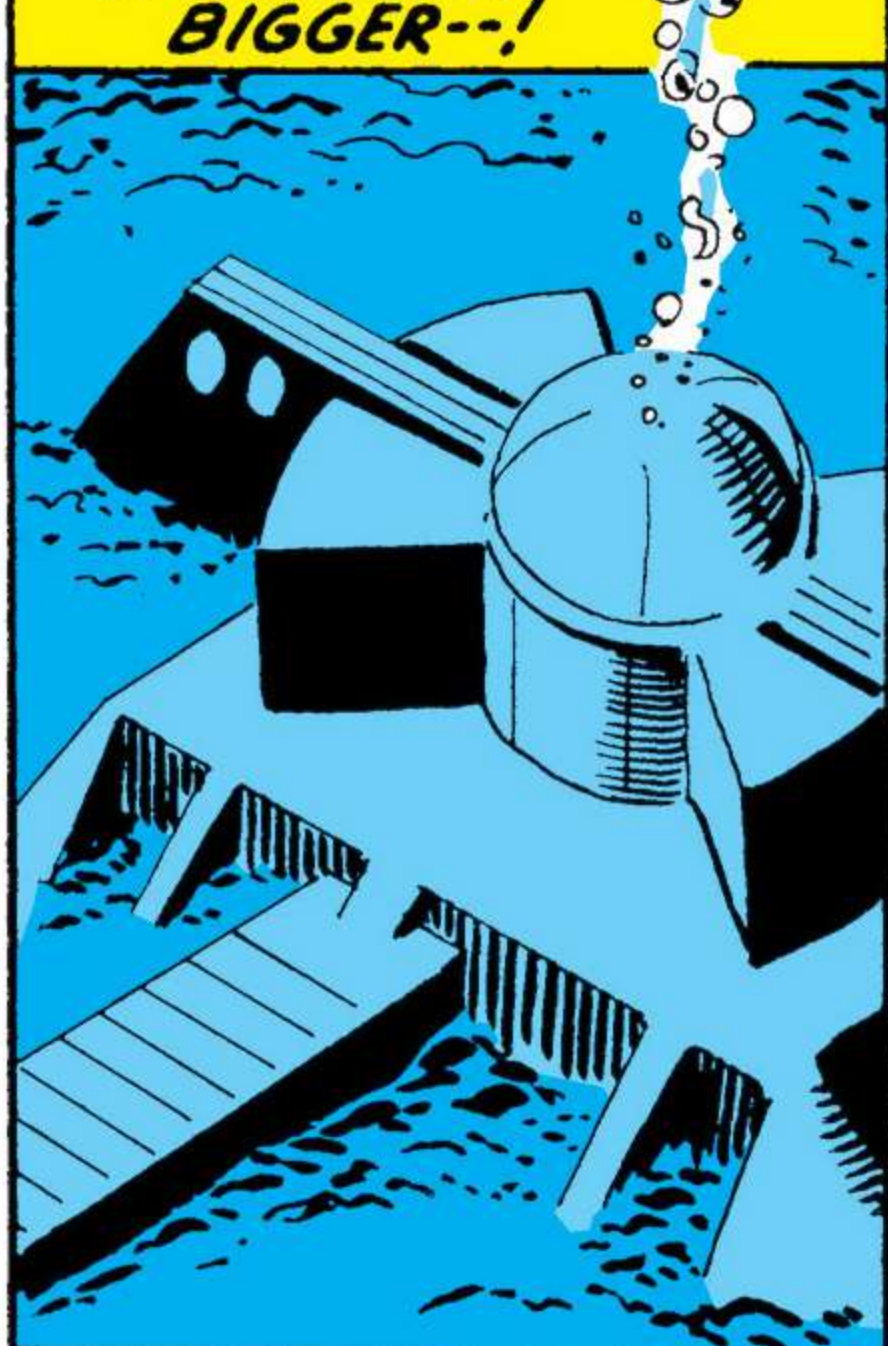
...A SYMPATHETIC DR. CONNORS WAITS FOR SPIDER-MAN TO BRING THE ISO-36 TO HIM... FOR IT IS THE ONLY SERUM WHICH MIGHT SAVE PETER'S AUNT!



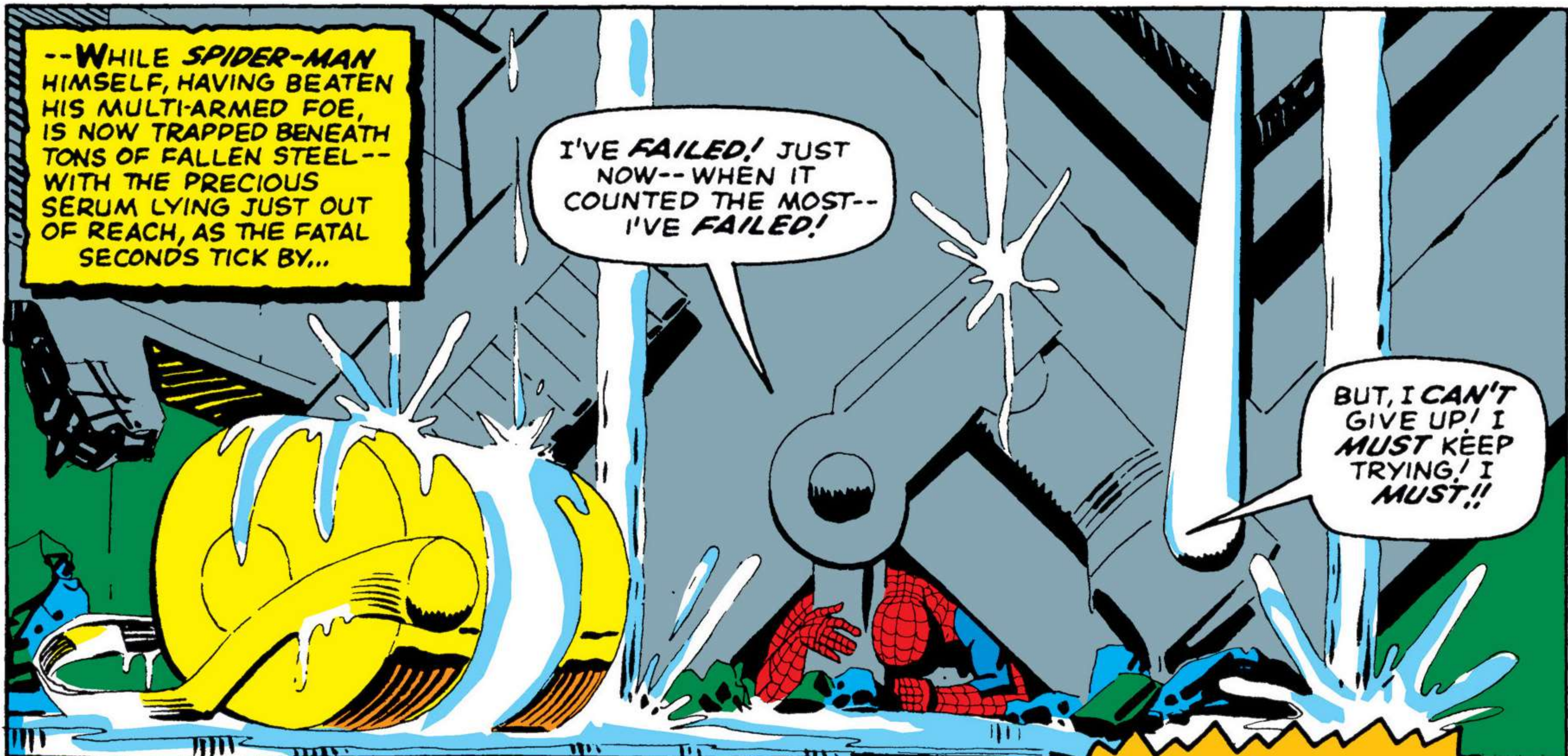
BUT, THE STOLEN SERUM IS IN THE POSSESSION OF DR. OCTOPUS, WHOSE MASKED HENCHMEN WAIT OUTSIDE A STEEL DOOR, AS SPIDEY AND DOC OCK BATTLE WITHIN...



AND, NONE SUSPECT THAT A SUDDEN LEAK IN THE UNDER-WATER DOME OF THE HIDDEN HIDEOUT IS GROWING BIGGER--AND BIGGER--!



--WHILE SPIDER-MAN HIMSELF, HAVING BEATEN HIS MULTI-ARMED FOE, IS NOW TRAPPED BENEATH TONS OF FALLEN STEEL-- WITH THE PRECIOUS SERUM LYING JUST OUT OF REACH, AS THE FATAL SECONDS TICK BY...

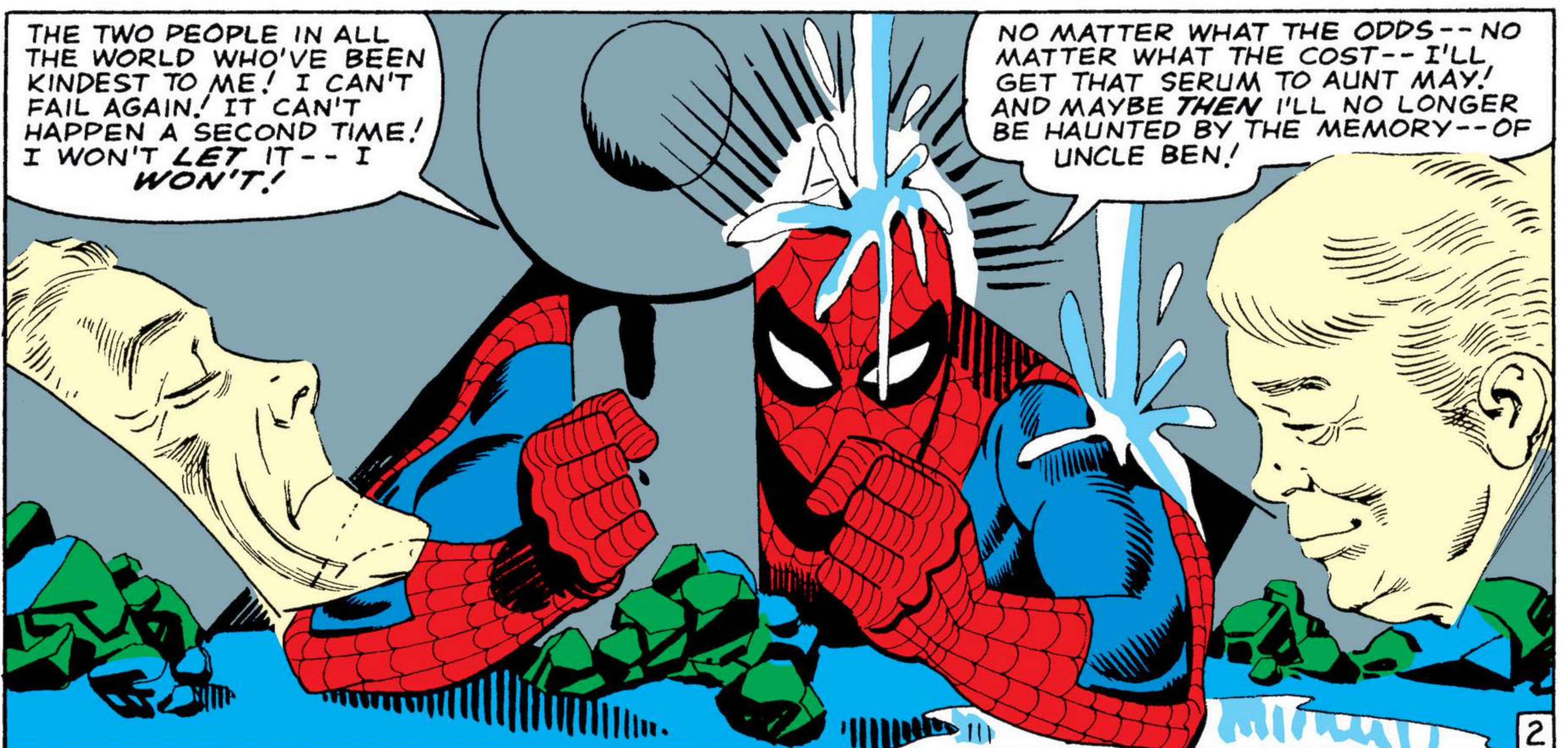


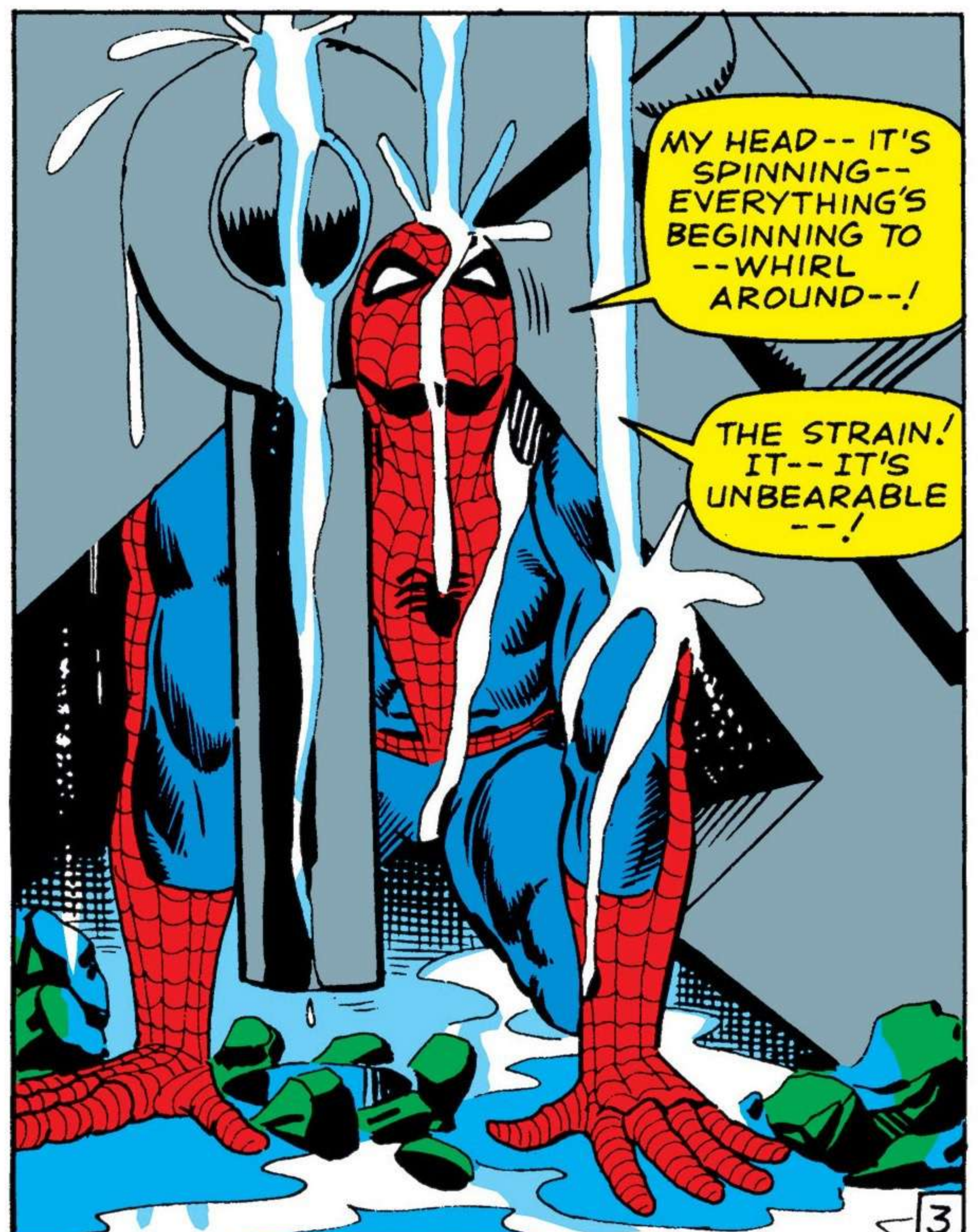
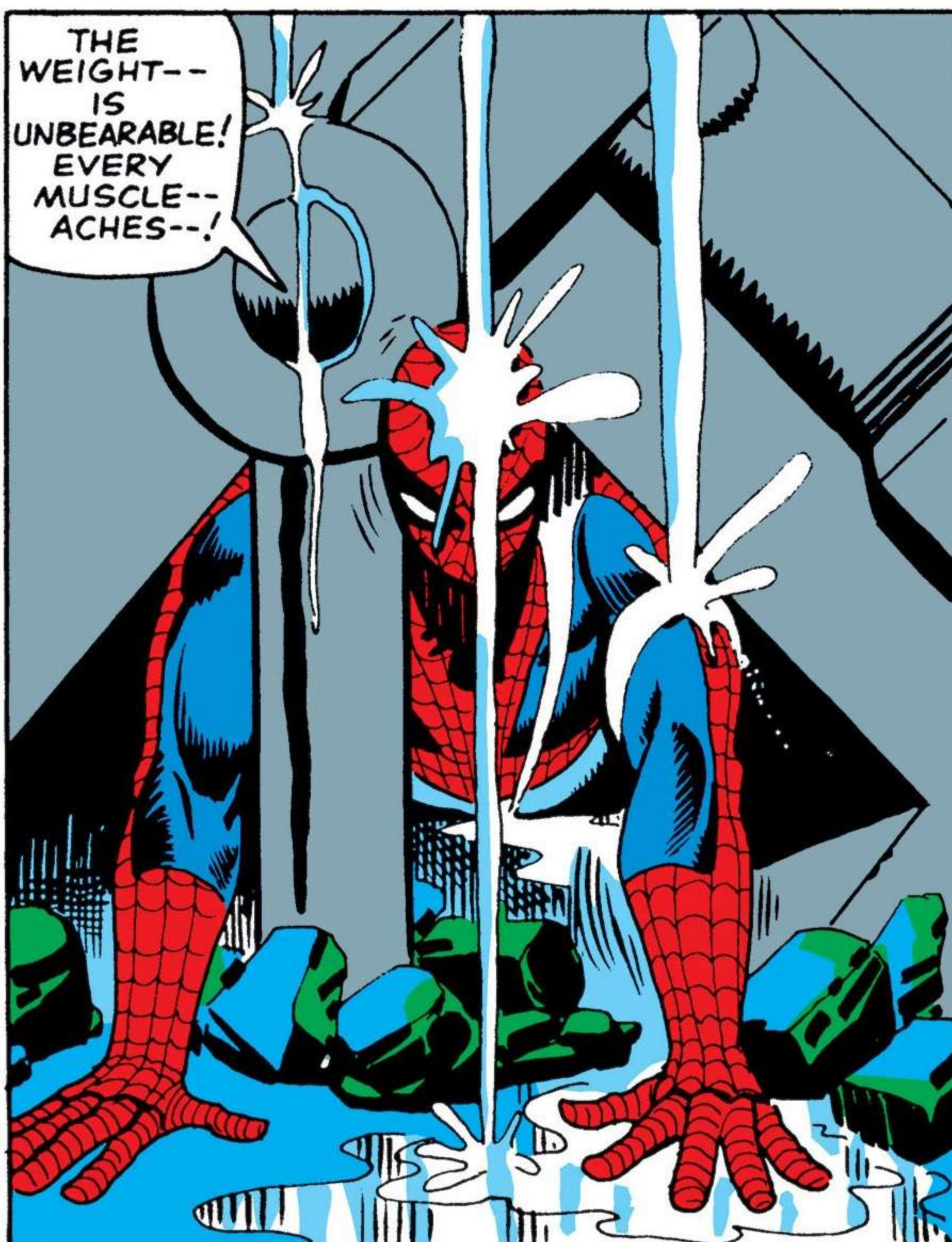
I'VE FAILED! JUST NOW-- WHEN IT COUNTED THE MOST-- I'VE FAILED!

BUT, I CAN'T GIVE UP! I MUST KEEP TRYING! I MUST!!

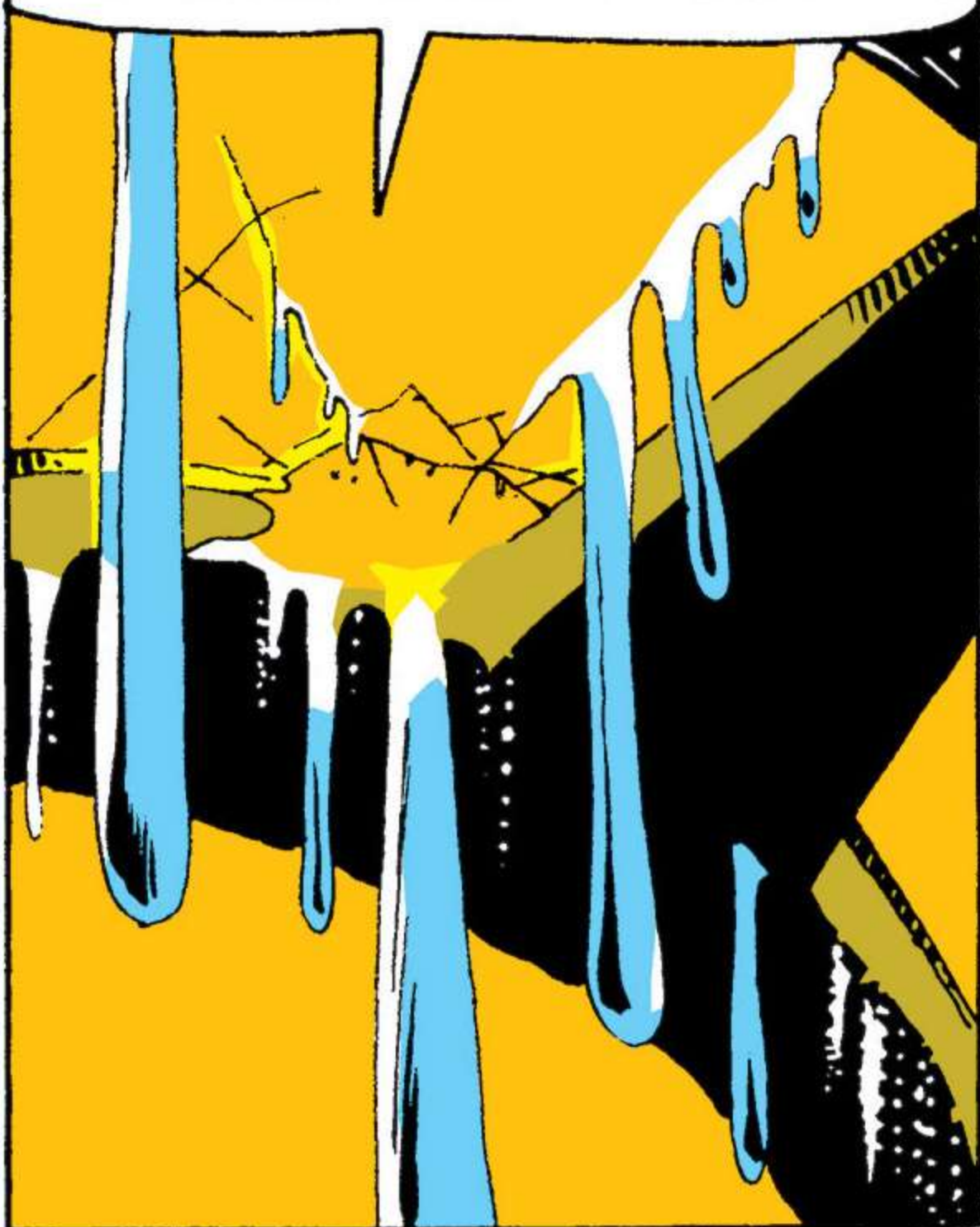
POSSIBLY ONE OF THE MOST THOROUGHLY SATISFYING SPIDER-MAN SAGAS YOU HAVE EVER THRILLED TO!

SCRIPT AND EDITING:
STAN LEE
PLOT AND ILLUSTRATION:
STEVE DITKO
BORDERING AND LETTERING:
ARTIE SIMEK
READING AND ENJOYING:
THAT OL' WEB-SPINNER--
YOU!





THE CRACK IN THE CEILING--
IT'S GROWING **WIDER**--GETTING
BIGGER EVERY SECOND!
I'LL NEVER MAKE IT--I CAN'T--!



NO! I DARE NOT GIVE
UP NOW! IF I CLOSE
MY EYES--I'LL GO
UNDER! MUST STAY
AWAKE--MUST CLEAR
MY HEAD! KEEP TRYING
--TRYING--!



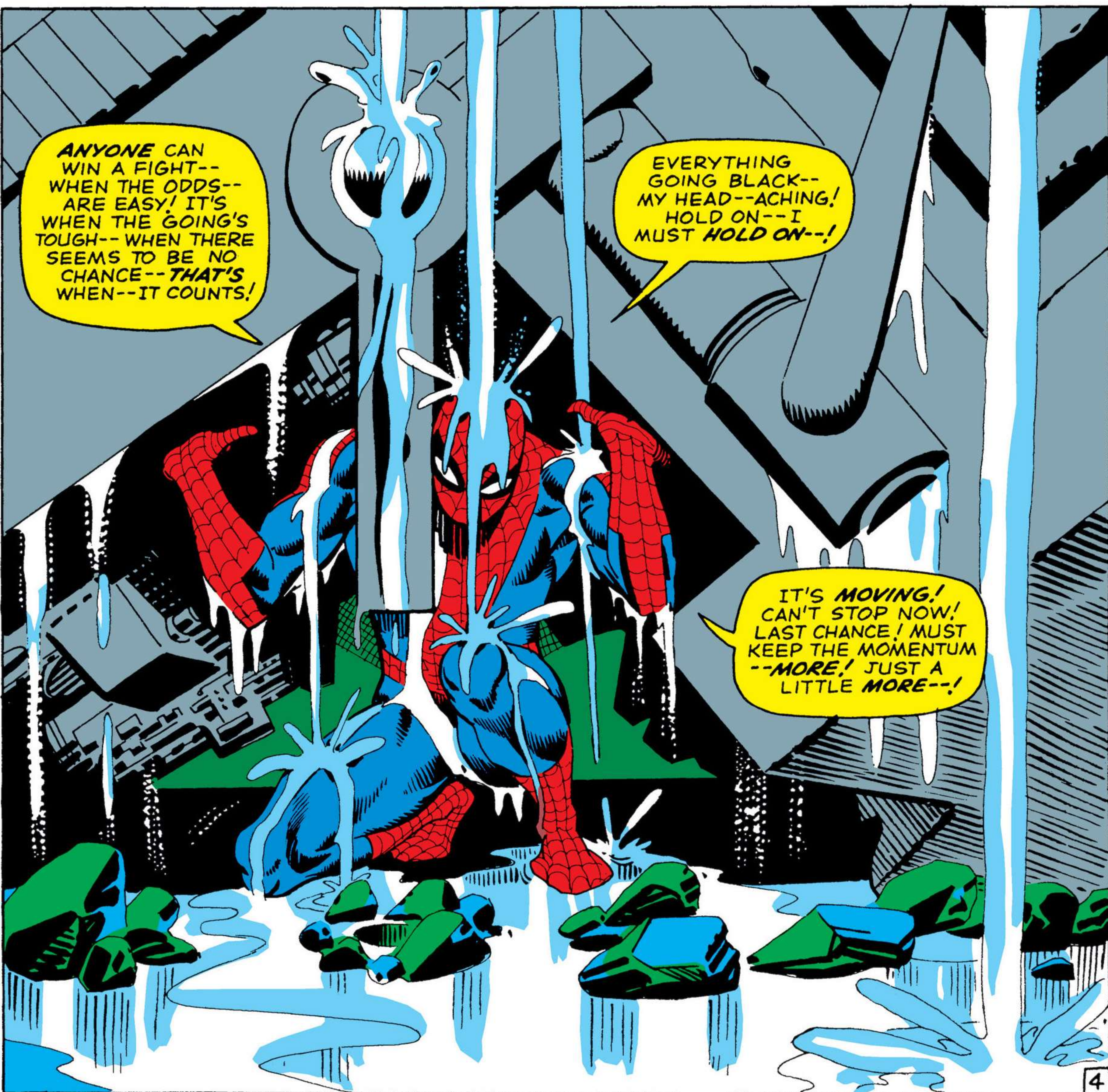
I'LL **DO** IT, AUNT MAY!
I WON'T FAIL YOU! NO
MATTER WHAT--I WON'T
FAIL--!



ANYONE CAN
WIN A FIGHT--
WHEN THE ODDS--
ARE EASY! IT'S
WHEN THE GOING'S
TOUGH--WHEN THERE
SEEMS TO BE NO
CHANCE--**THAT'S**
WHEN--IT COUNTS!

EVERYTHING
GOING BLACK--
MY HEAD--ACHING!
HOLD ON--I
MUST **HOLD ON**--!

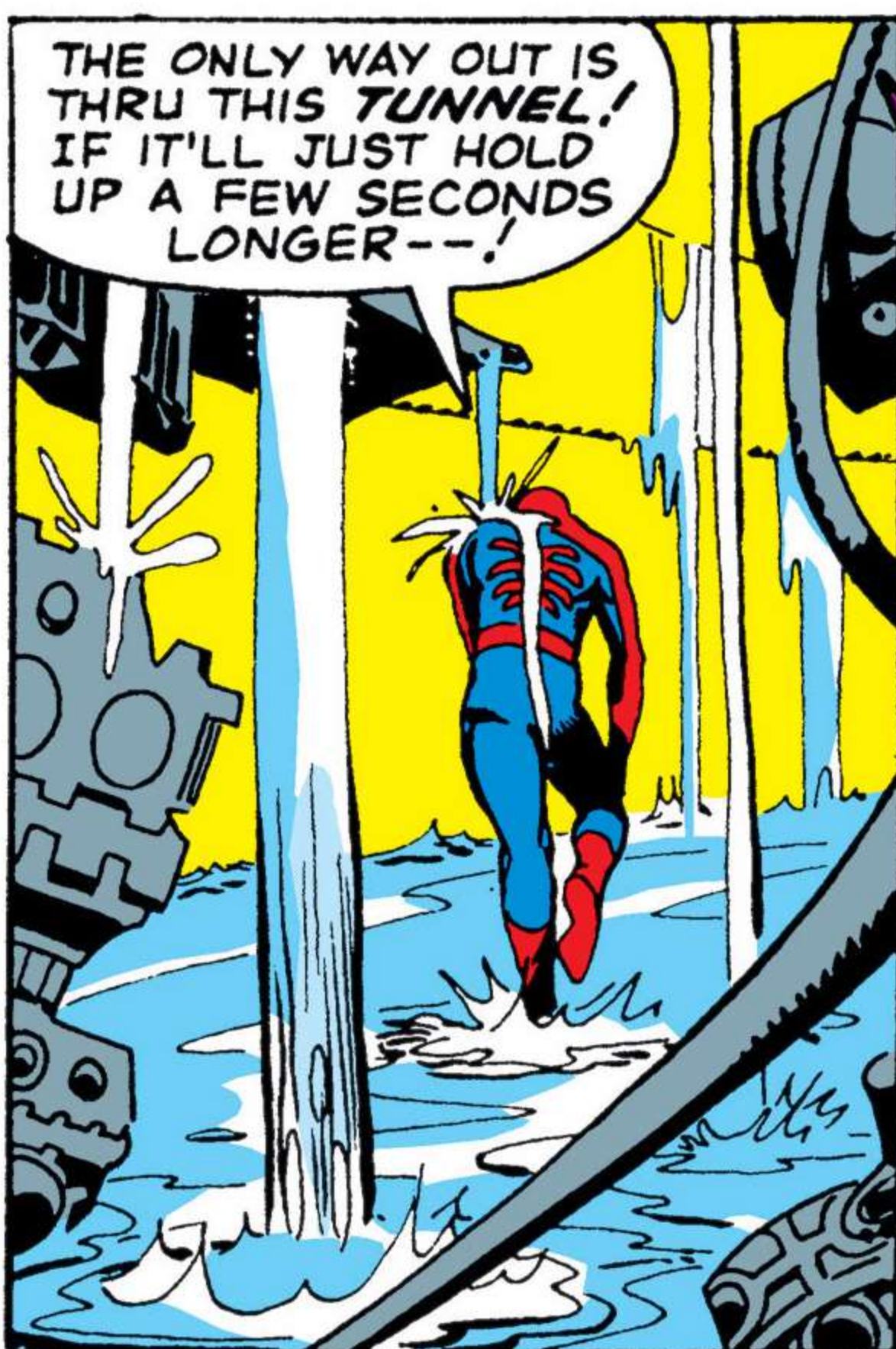
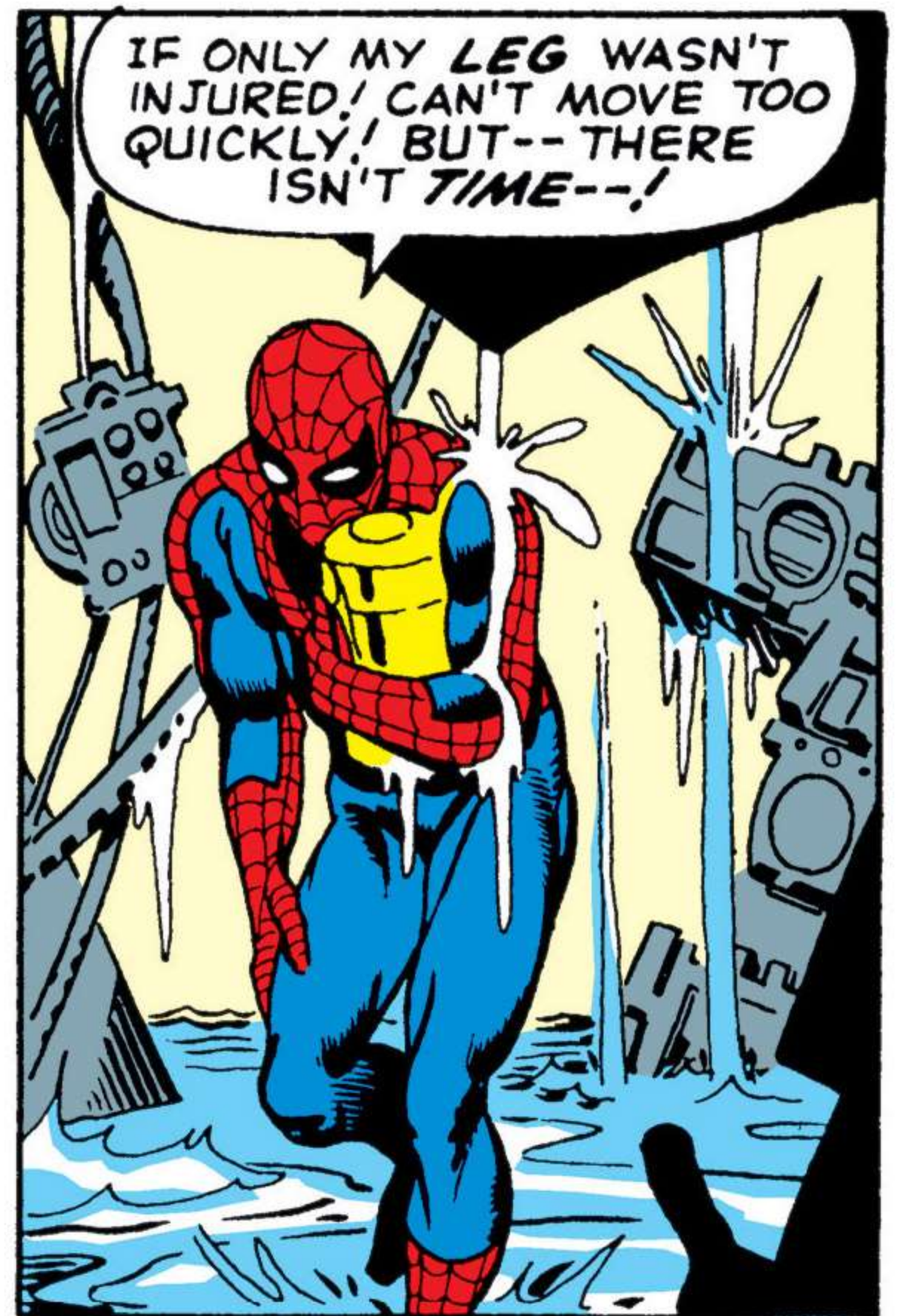
IT'S **MOVING!**
CAN'T STOP NOW!
LAST CHANCE! MUST
KEEP THE MOMENTUM
--**MORE!** JUST A
LITTLE **MORE**--!



AND THEN--AS THE AGONIZING ACHE IN HIS LIMBS
SEEMS UNENDURABLE--AS HIS SUPERBLY
MUSCLED BODY SUFFERS THE TORMENT OF A
VIRTUALLY INDESCRIBABLE ORDEAL--FROM OUT
OF THE PAIN--FROM OUT OF THE AGONY--COMES
TRIUMPH!

I DID IT!
I'M FREE!





WITH SURGING, THUNDEROUS POWER, THE ONRUSHING DELUGE SWEEPS SPIDER-MAN ALONG THRU THE TUNNEL, AS IT HURTTLES ON ITS COURSE WITH A FORCE AND IMPACT SUCH AS ONLY NATURE HERSELF, IN ALL HER FURY, CAN UNLEASH...

AND, ONLY SPIDEY'S AMAZING AGILITY AND SENSE OF BALANCE CAN KEEP HIM FROM BEING HELPLESSLY BATTERED AS THE TORRENT SURGES FROM SIDE TO SIDE...!

THE TUNNEL IS ALMOST COMPLETELY INUNDATED! I CAN HOLD MY BREATH FAR LONGER THAN A NORMAL MAN-- BUT NOT FOREVER!

I'VE GOT TO FIND A WAY OUT-- BEFORE I DROWN!

THAT DOOR-- AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL! IT'S MY ONLY CHANCE!

THE RELENTLESS HAMMERING OF TONS OF WATER SHOULD BREAK IT DOWN BY THE TIME I REACH IT!

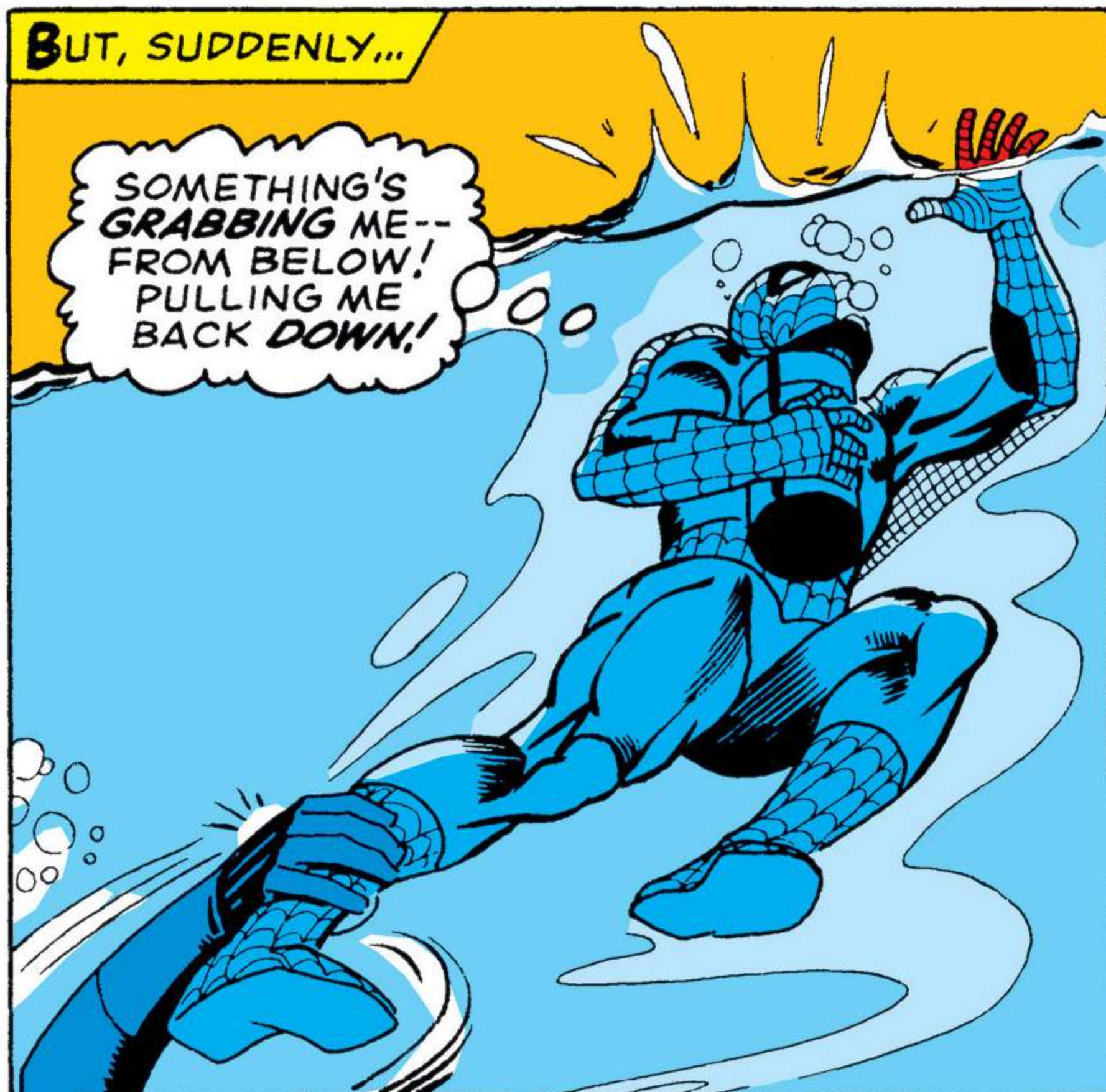
MUSTN'T GET CARELESS NOW! HAVE TO KEEP SWERVING--DODGING-- AVOIDING THE WRECKAGE WHICH COULD TANGLE ME UP!

AND THEN, SECONDS LATER...

I'M THRU! THERE'S AIR TO BREATHE! AIR!

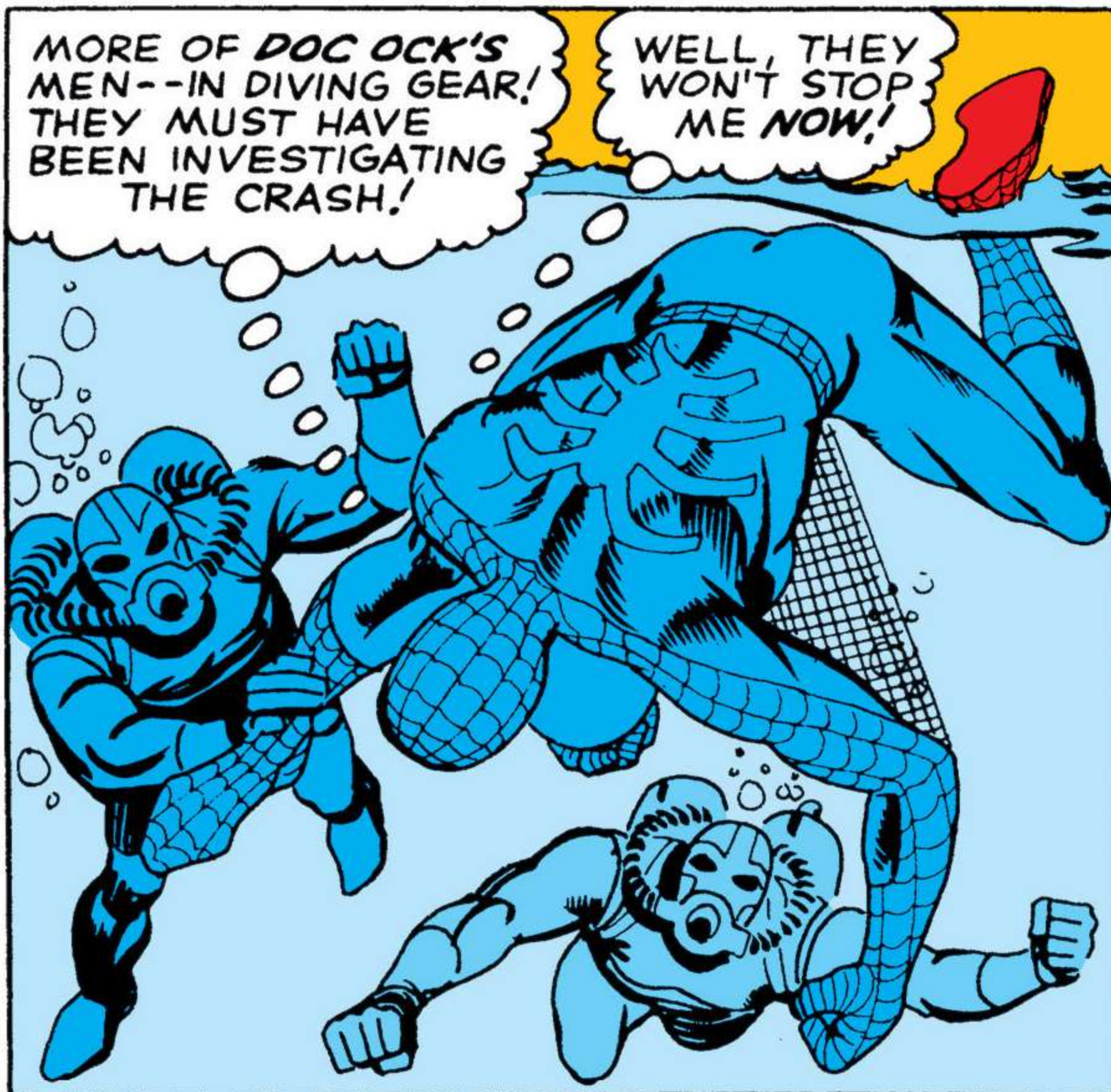
BUT, SUDDENLY...

SOMETHING'S GRABBING ME-- FROM BELOW! PULLING ME BACK DOWN!



MORE OF DOC OCK'S MEN--IN DIVING GEAR! THEY MUST HAVE BEEN INVESTIGATING THE CRASH!

WELL, THEY WON'T STOP ME NOW!

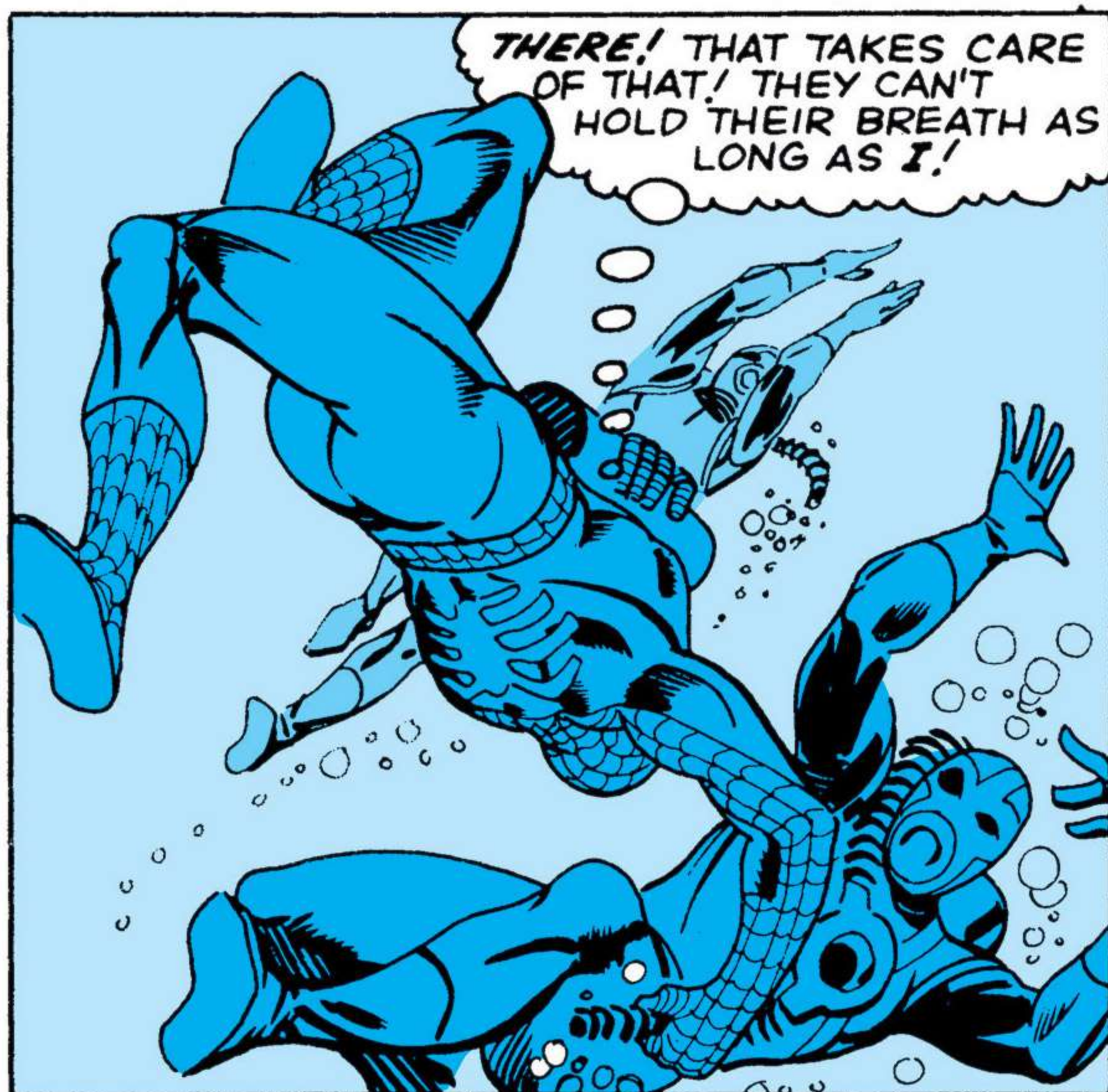


NO MATTER HOW TIRED I AM, I CAN STILL OUT-FIGHT THEM!

ONCE THEIR AIR HOSES ARE RIPPED OFF, THEY'LL HAVE TO HEAD FOR THE SURFACE!



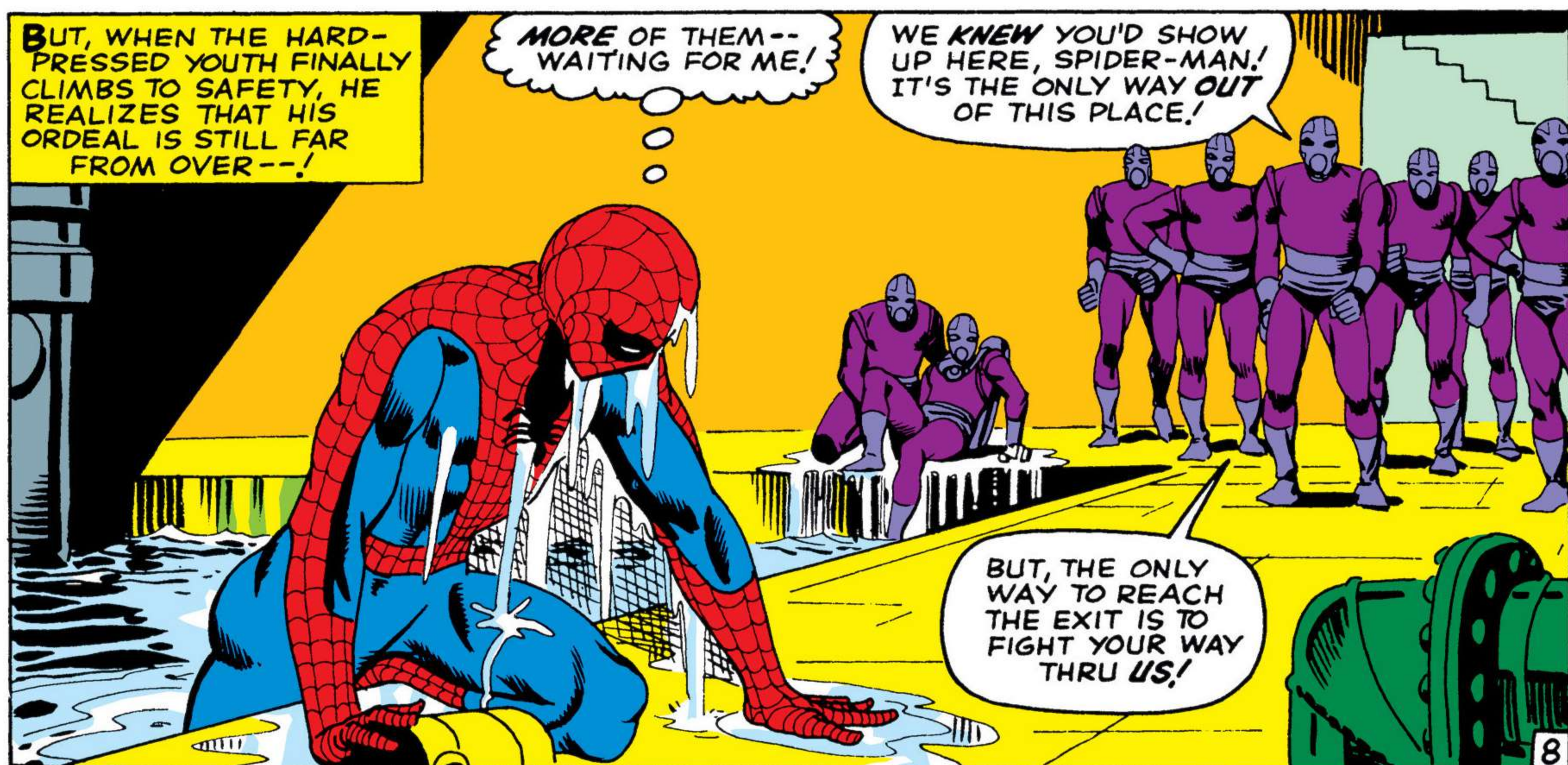
THERE! THAT TAKES CARE OF THAT! THEY CAN'T HOLD THEIR BREATH AS LONG AS I!



BUT, WHEN THE HARD-PRESSED YOUTH FINALLY CLIMBS TO SAFETY, HE REALIZES THAT HIS ORDEAL IS STILL FAR FROM OVER--!

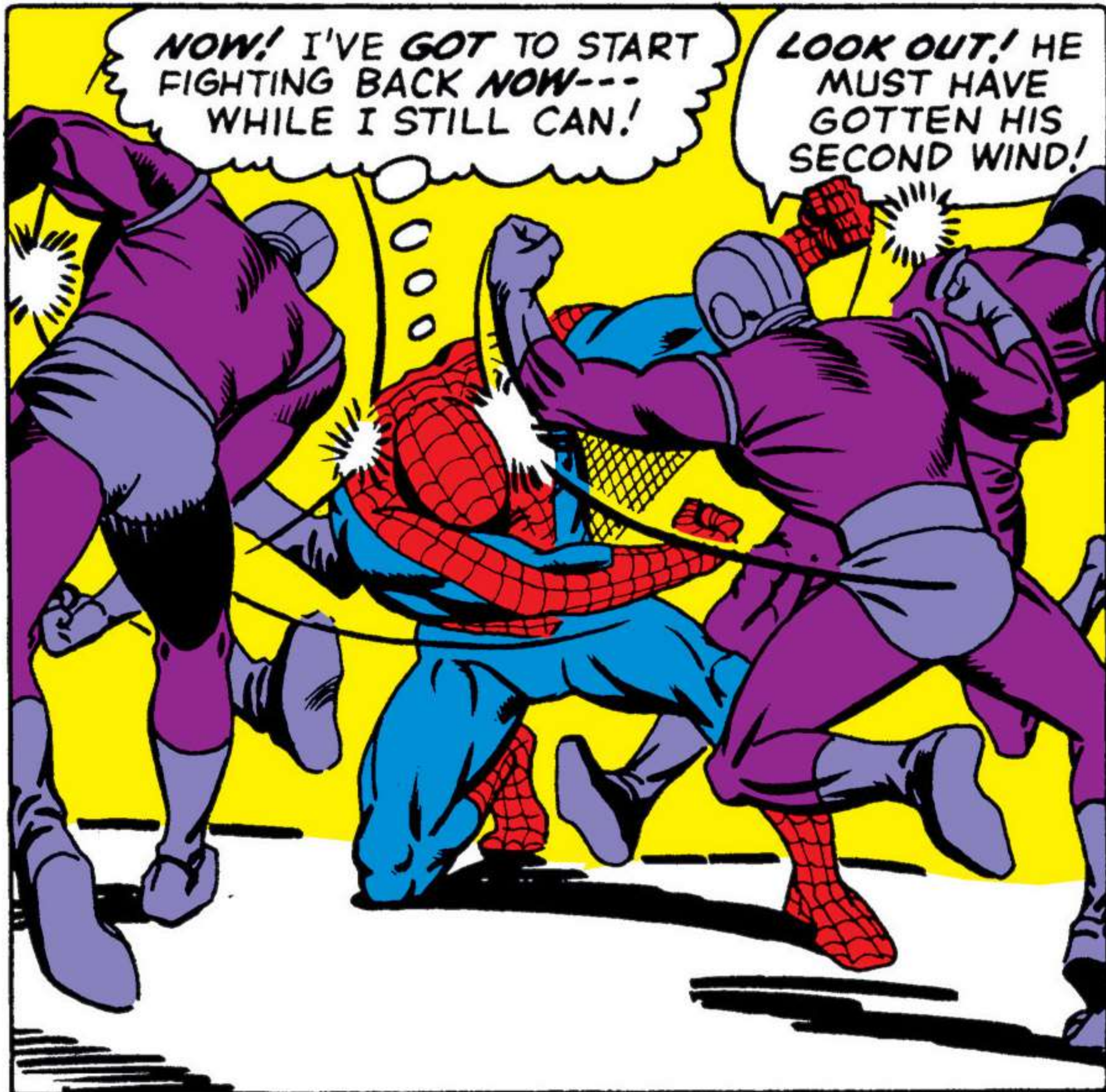
MORE OF THEM-- WAITING FOR ME!

WE KNEW YOU'D SHOW UP HERE, SPIDER-MAN! IT'S THE ONLY WAY OUT OF THIS PLACE!

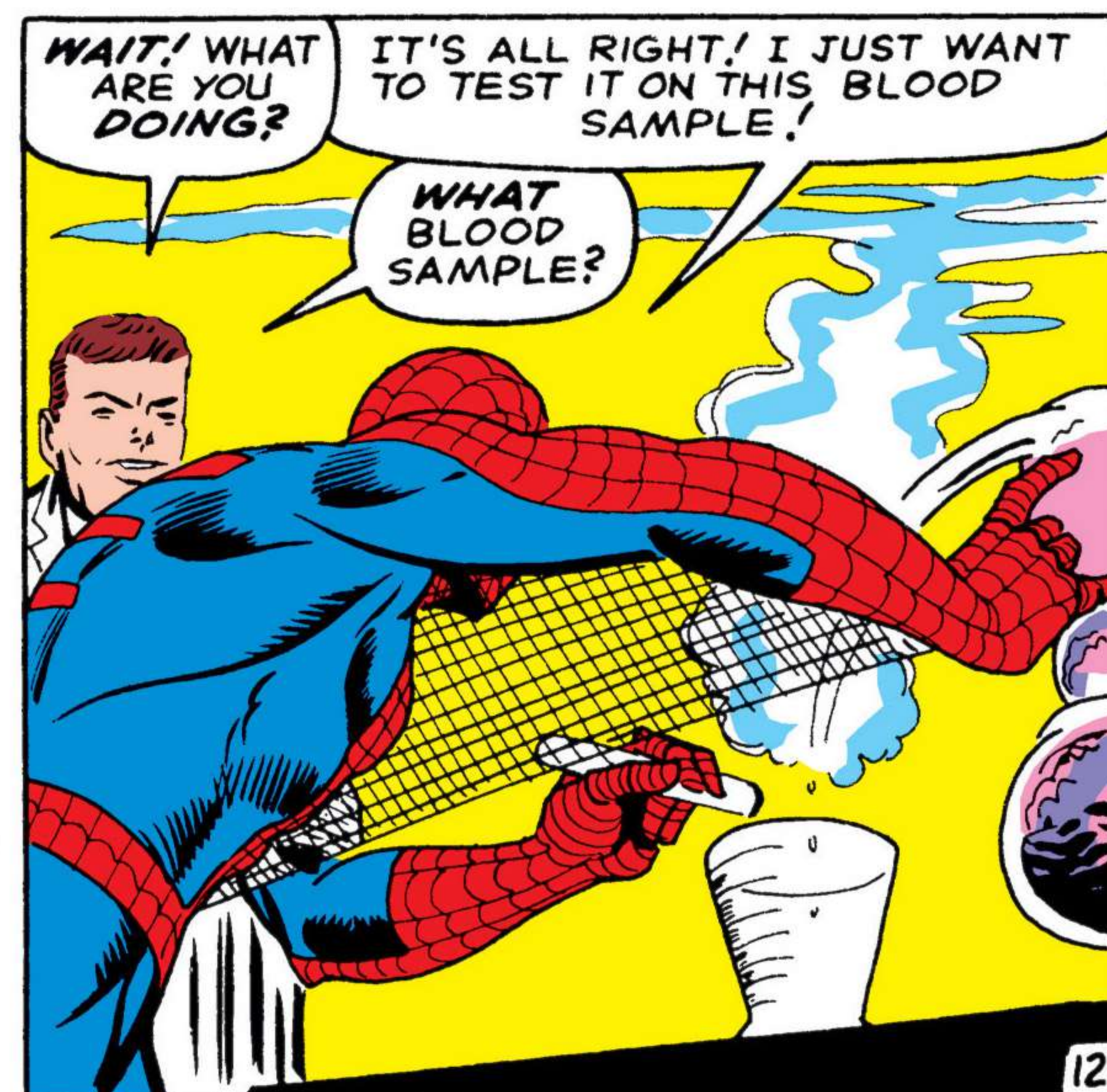
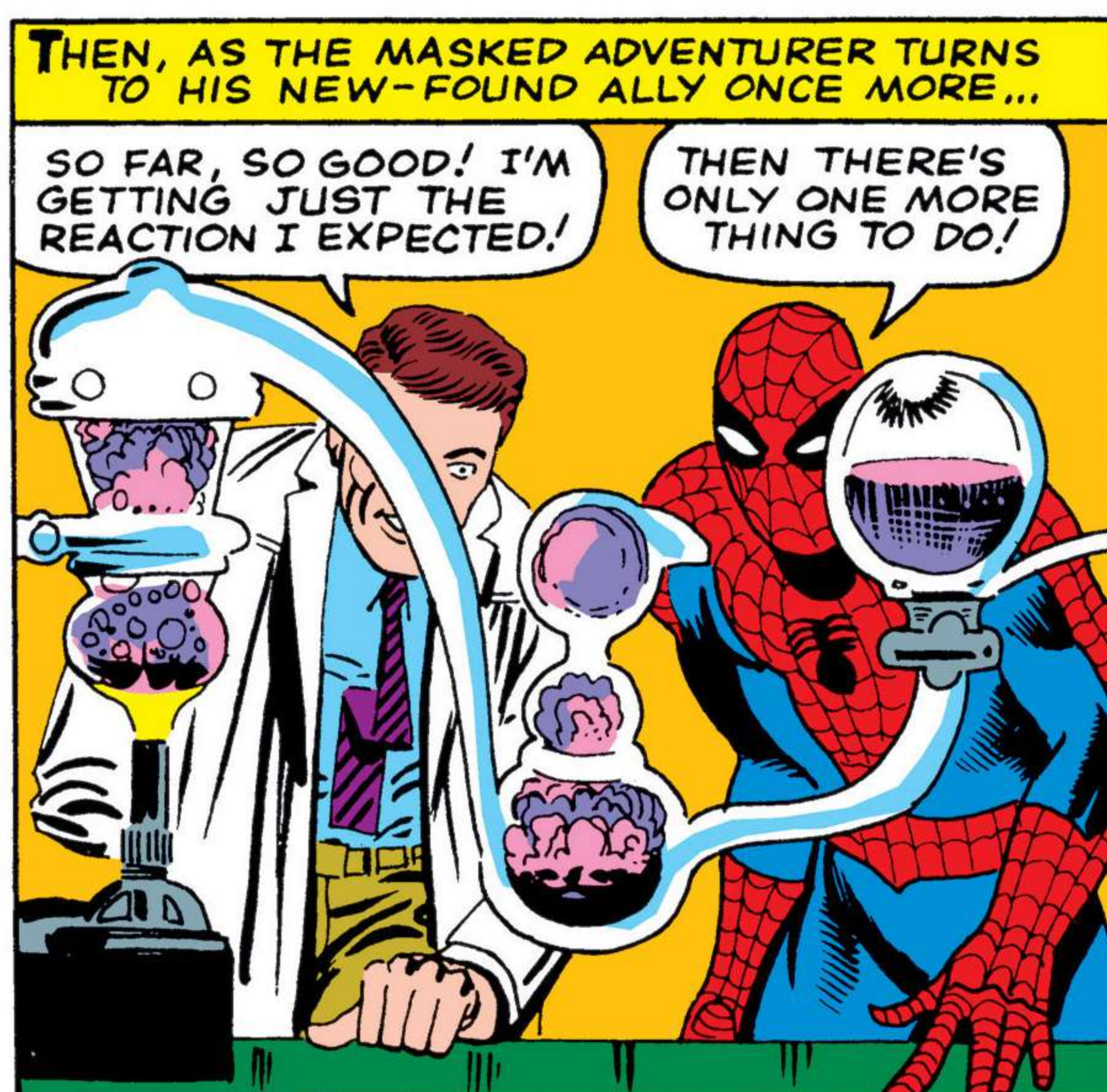
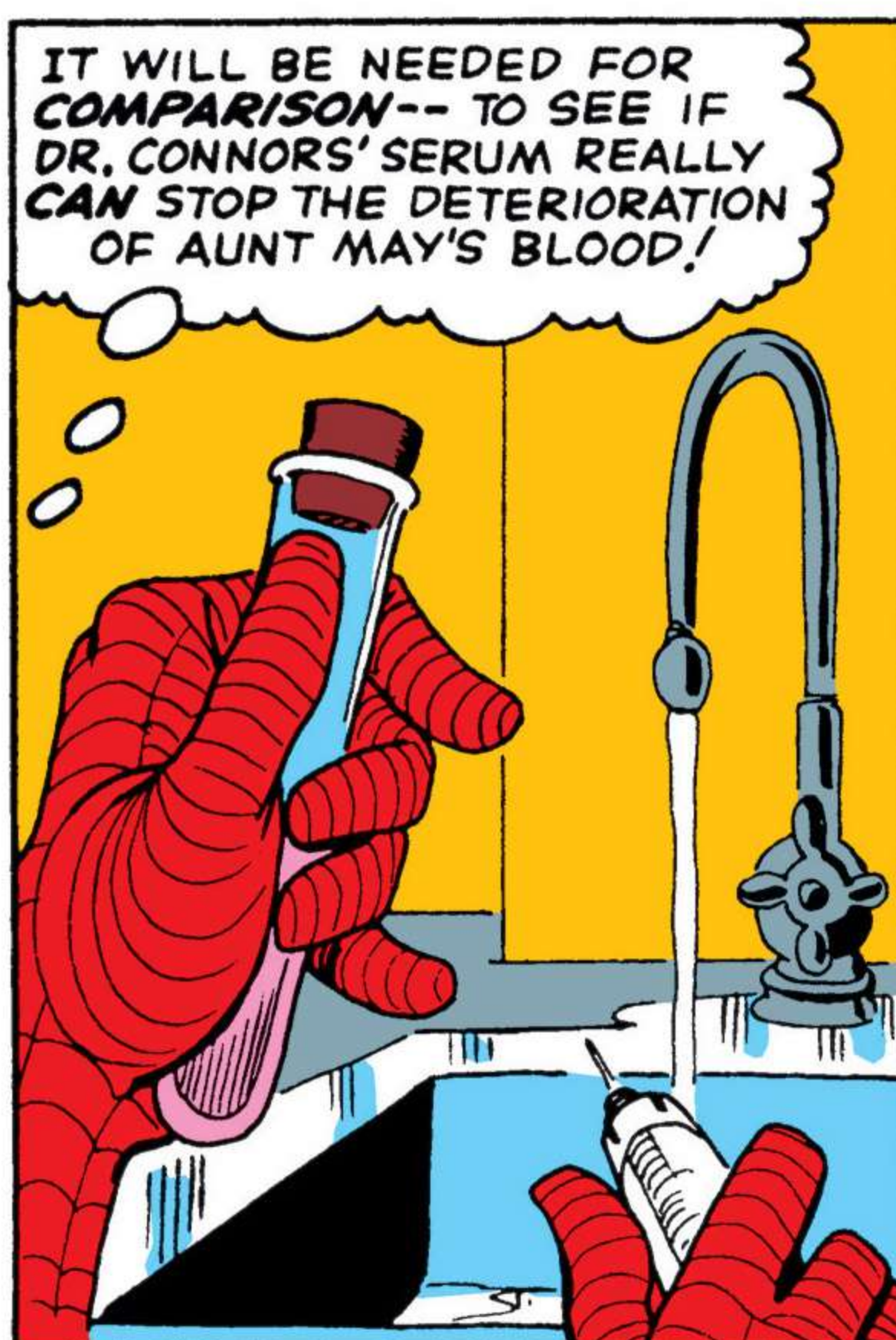
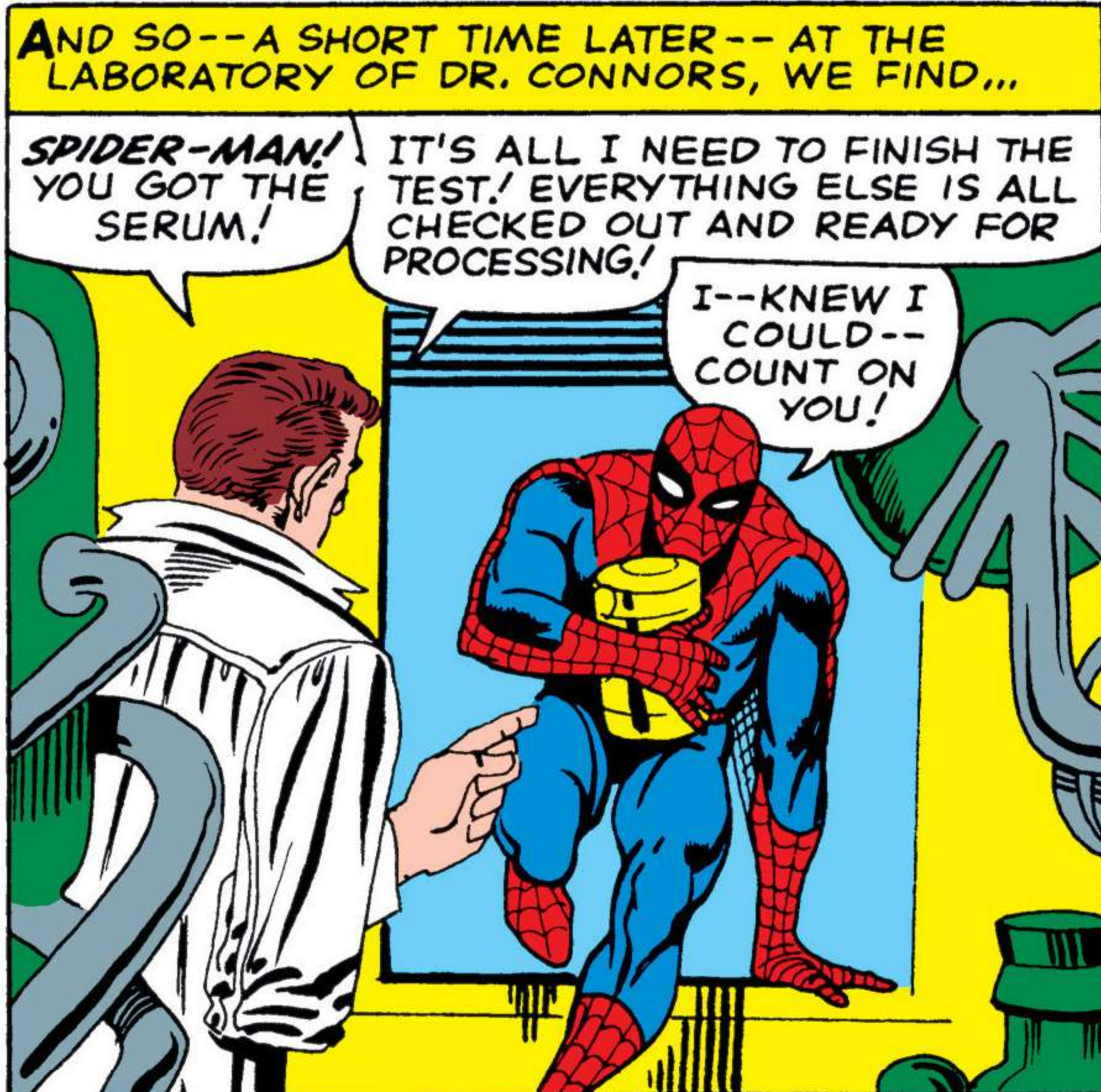


BUT, THE ONLY WAY TO REACH THE EXIT IS TO FIGHT YOUR WAY THRU US!







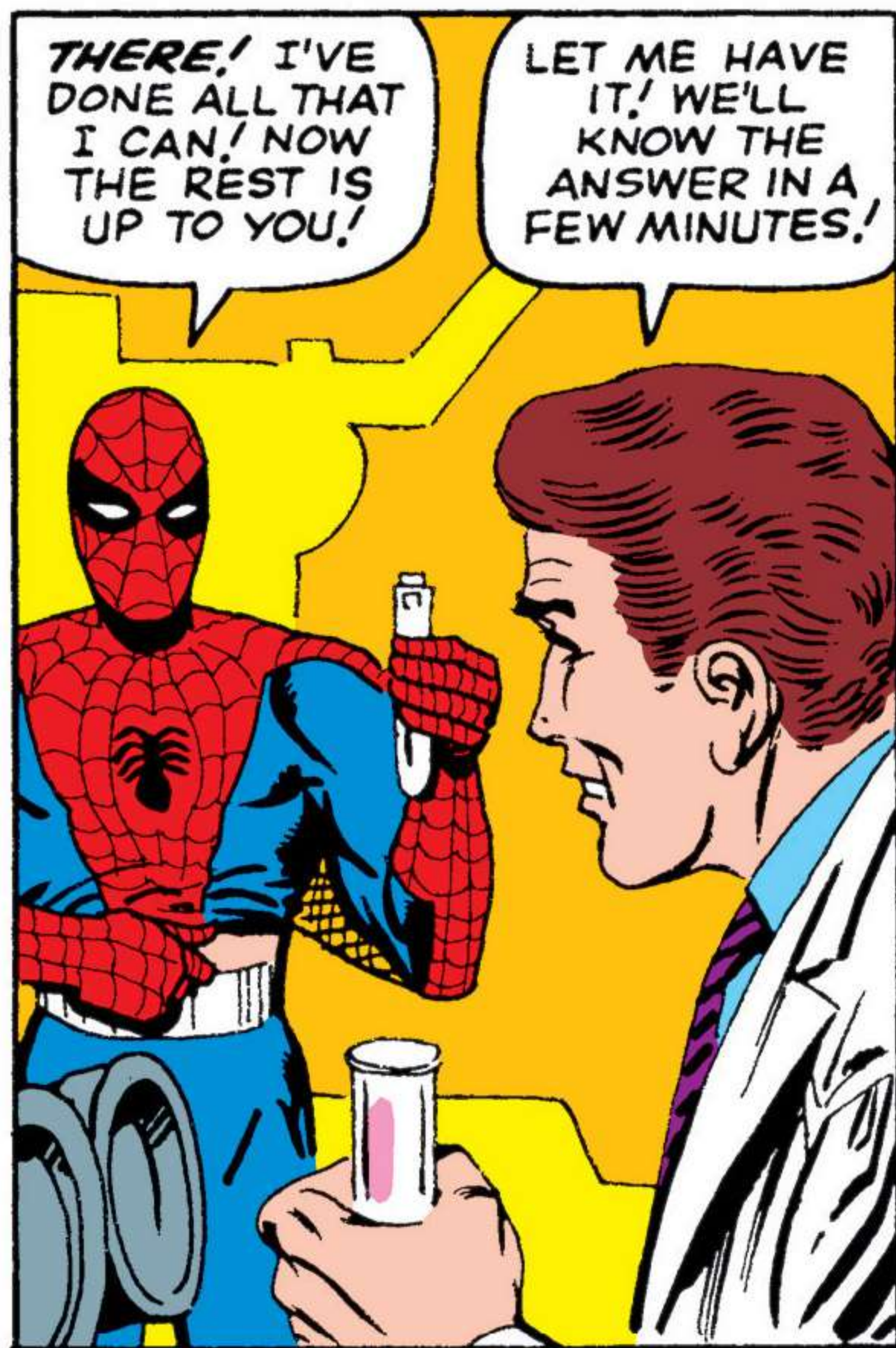




THERE ISN'T TIME TO EXPLAIN NOW-- BUT IF THE SERUM WORKS ON *THIS*, THEN IT WILL PROBABLY BE EFFECTIVE ON THE *PATIENT*, TOO!

HOW CAN YOU BE SURE IT'S THE SAME TYPE OF BLOOD?

I CAN'T EXPLAIN --BUT IT *IS*!



THERE! I'VE DONE ALL THAT I CAN! NOW THE REST IS UP TO YOU!

LET ME HAVE IT! WE'LL KNOW THE ANSWER IN A FEW MINUTES!



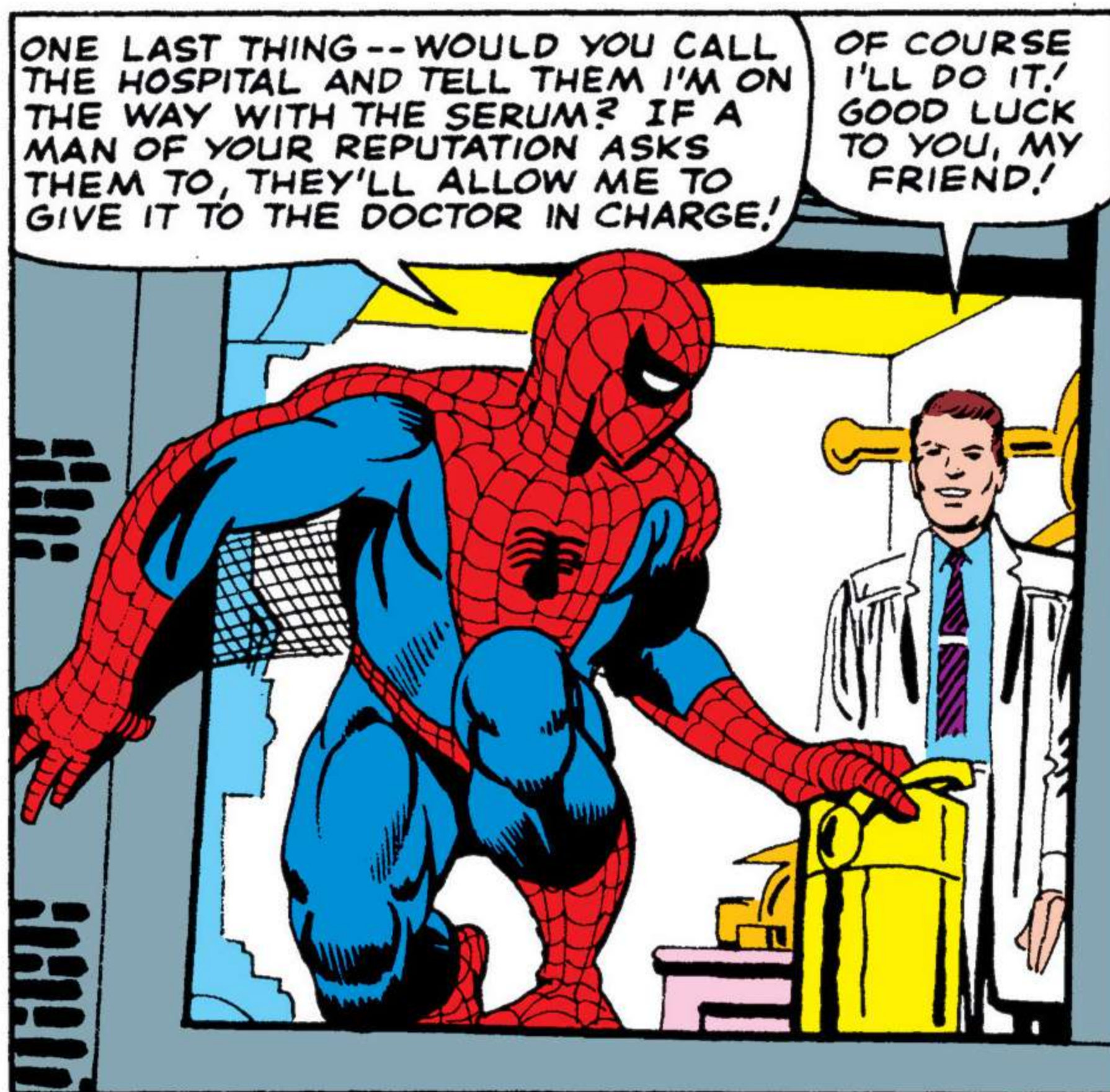
IT *WORKS!* THE DETERIORATION OF THE BLOOD WAS INSTANTLY *CHECKED* WHEN THE SERUM WAS APPLIED!

THEN WE MAY HAVE FOUND THE *CURE* FOR AUNT MAY!



JUST ONE THING-- YOU'VE NEVER TOLD ME WHO THE PATIENT *IS*! THE SERUM MAY BE AFFECTED BY THE AGE, SEX, OR PHYSICAL CONDITION OF THE ONE IT'S GIVEN TO!

I KNOW! BUT THAT'S THE CHANCE WE HAVE TO TAKE! AT LEAST-- THERE'S SOME *HOPE* NOW!



ONE LAST THING-- WOULD YOU CALL THE HOSPITAL AND TELL THEM I'M ON THE WAY WITH THE SERUM? IF A MAN OF YOUR REPUTATION ASKS THEM TO, THEY'LL ALLOW ME TO GIVE IT TO THE DOCTOR IN CHARGE!

OF COURSE I'LL DO IT! GOOD LUCK TO YOU, MY FRIEND!



SECONDS LATER...

WE'VE DONE ALL WE CAN, BUT SHE'S SINKING RAPIDLY!

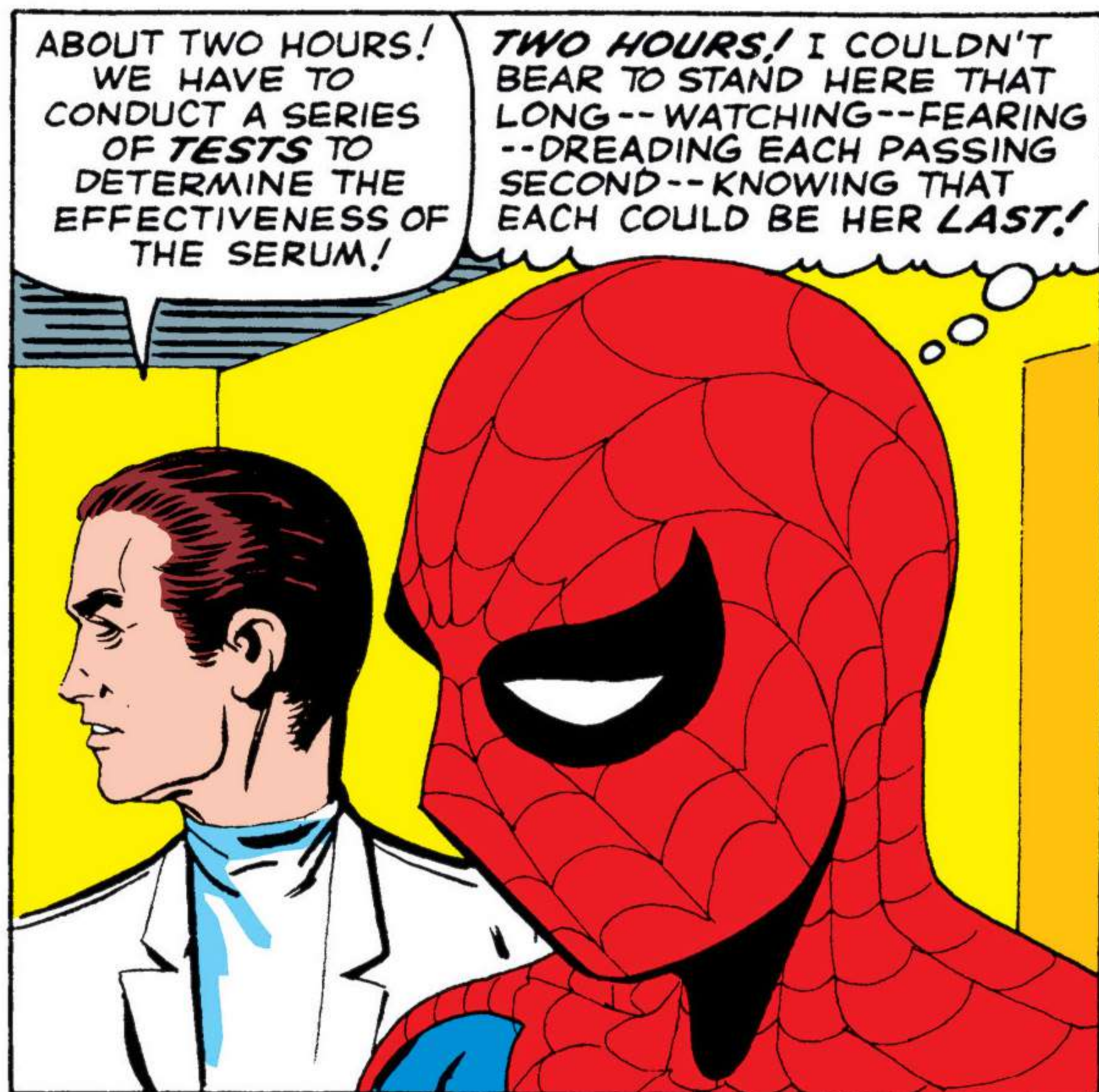
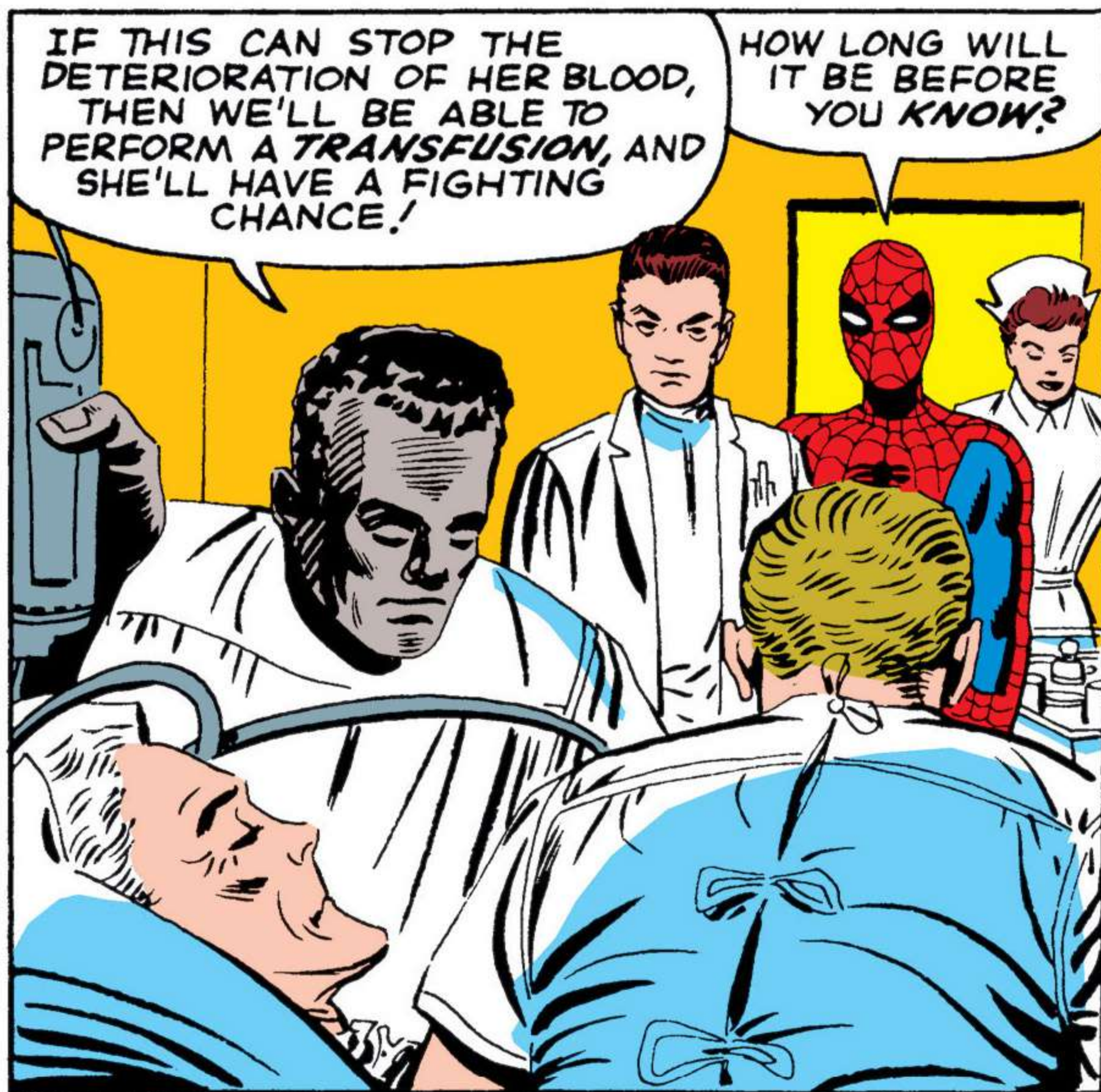
DOCTOR, THERE'S AN URGENT PHONE CALL FOR YOU!



NO SOONER IS THE PHONE CALL COMPLETED, WHEN...

QUICKLY! I HAVE SOMETHING FOR MRS. PARKER! IS SHE--?

YES, SHE'S STILL ALIVE-- BUT JUST *BARELY!* WE WERE ALREADY INFORMED OF YOUR COMING! GIVE ME THE SERUM!



MINUTES LATER, AT THE OFFICES OF THE *DAILY BUGLE*, CRIME REPORTER *FREDERICK FOSWELL* GETS AN URGENT CALL...

WHO? DID YOU SAY *SPIDER-MAN*?? YOU WANT ME TO MEET YOU--RIGHT AWAY?

YOU'VE GOT A TIP FOR ME?!!--I'M ON MY WAY!!



BETTER HOLD THE FRONT PAGE FOR AN *EXTRA*, MR. JAMESON! I'M ON MY WAY TO GET A SCOOP FROM *SPIDER-MAN*!

AN *EXTRA*!! MUSIC TO MY EARS!!



I CAN HEAR THE MONEY ROLLING IN NOW! MAYBE THAT BLASTED WEB-SPINNER'S IN JAIL--OR WORSE-- IF I'M LUCKY! OH, WHAT A BEAUTIFUL DAY THIS IS!

MR. JAMESON! YOU'RE *SMILING*! IS ANYTHING WRONG?



THEN, ON A STREET NEAR THE WATERFRONT...

SLOW DOWN, FOSWELL! YOU'LL LAST LONGER!

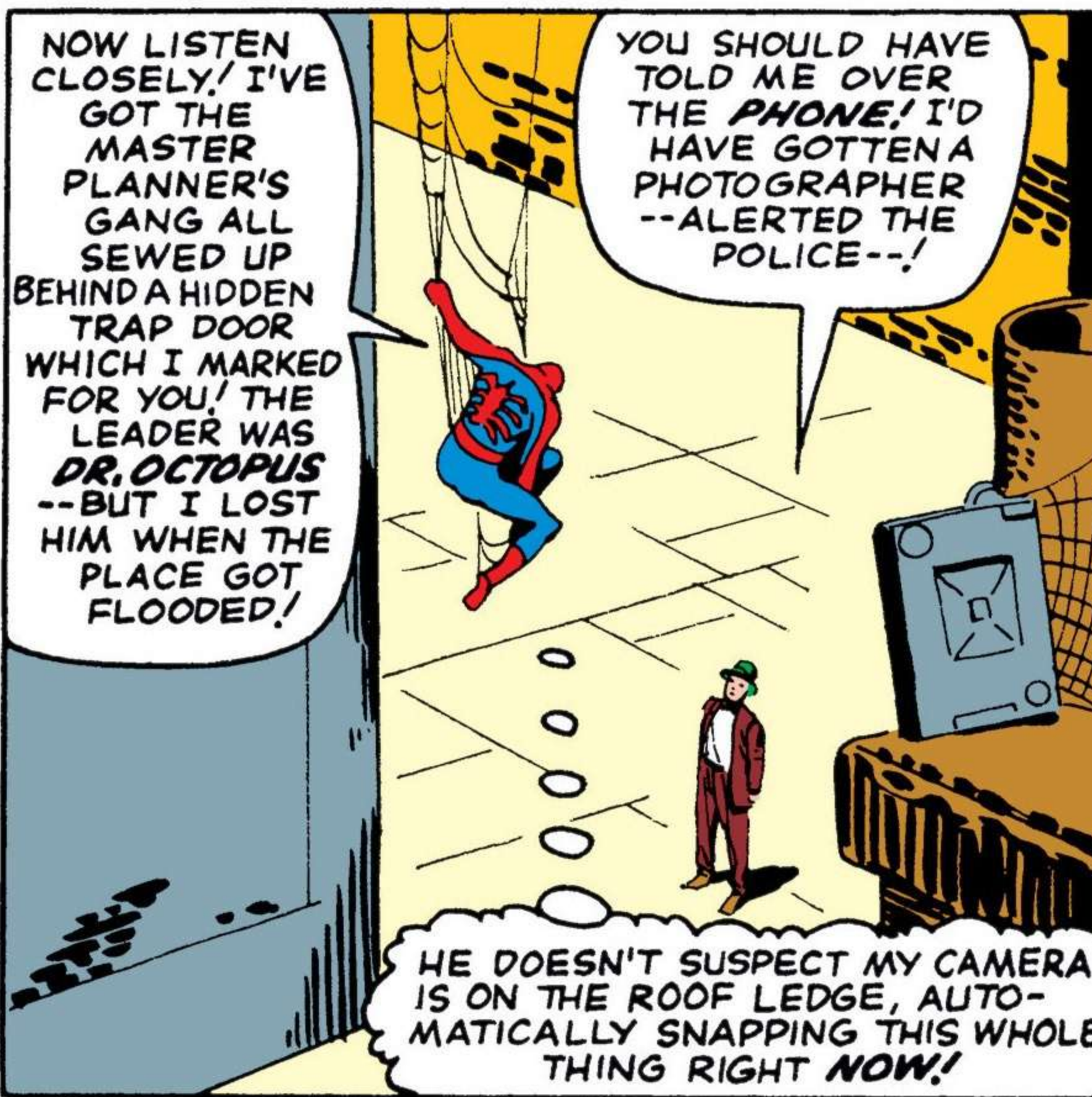
YOU!! WHAT ARE YOU DOING UP THERE?

NOTHIN' MUCH! JUST HANGIN' AROUND!



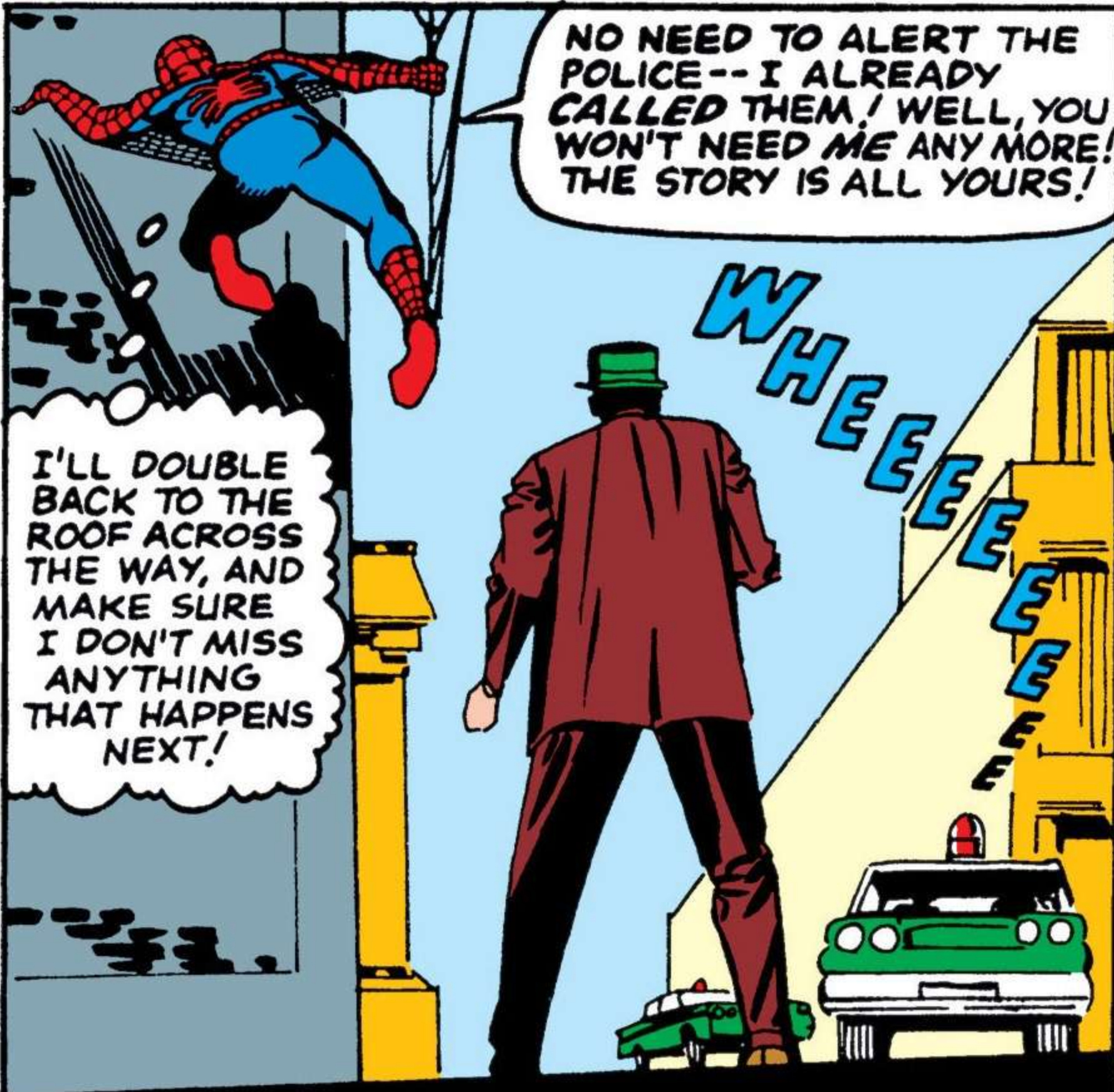
NOW LISTEN CLOSELY! I'VE GOT THE MASTER PLANNER'S GANG ALL SEWED UP BEHIND A HIDDEN TRAP DOOR WHICH I MARKED FOR YOU! THE LEADER WAS *DR. OCTOPUS*--BUT I LOST HIM WHEN THE PLACE GOT FLOODED!

YOU SHOULD HAVE TOLD ME OVER THE *PHONE*! I'D HAVE GOTTEN A PHOTOGRAPHER--ALERTED THE POLICE--!



HE DOESN'T SUSPECT MY CAMERA IS ON THE ROOF LEDGE, AUTOMATICALLY SNAPPING THIS WHOLE THING RIGHT NOW!

NO NEED TO ALERT THE POLICE-- I ALREADY CALLED THEM! WELL, YOU WON'T NEED ME ANY MORE! THE STORY IS ALL YOURS!



I'LL DOUBLE BACK TO THE ROOF ACROSS THE WAY, AND MAKE SURE I DON'T MISS ANYTHING THAT HAPPENS NEXT!

THERE THEY ARE-- LIKE CONTRITE LITTLE SCHOOL-BOYS WHO GOT CAUGHT WITH THEIR HANDS IN THE COOKIE JAR!

KEEP WALKING! DON'T BE SHY! WE'VE GOT ROOM IN THE PADDY WAGON FOR ALL OF YOU!





THIS IS **PERFECT!** THEY'RE MAKING THEM **UNMASK**-- AND MY TRUSTY LITTLE SNOOPER-SCOPE AND I HAVE A RINGSIDE SEAT!

HOOO BOY! THERE'LL BE A LOT OF BARE POST OFFICE WALLS WHEN **THOSE** CHARACTERS GET TAKEN OUT OF CIRCULATION!

IT'LL BE LIKE OLD HOME WEEK AT SING SING WHEN **YOU** CUT-UPS COME MARCHING IN!



WE'LL HAVE TO DISPATCH A **DIVER** DOWN BELOW TO SEE IF THERE'S ANY TRACE OF **DR. OCTOPUS!**

IF HE'S ANYWHERE IN THE VICINITY, WE'LL **FIND** HIM, CHARLIE! BUT, MY GUESS IS THAT HE'S **MILES** FROM HERE BY NOW!

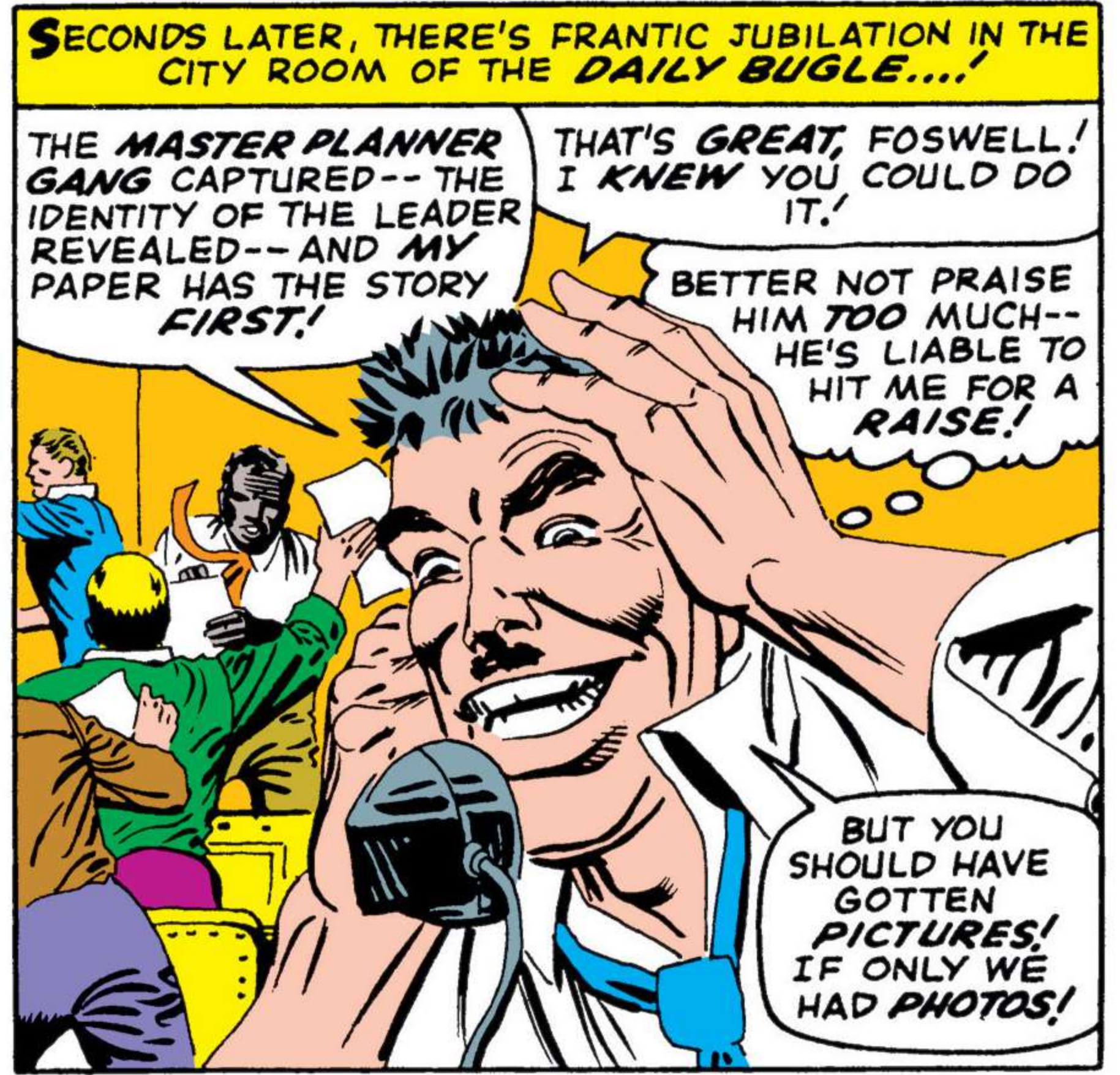
THAT IS, IF HE SURVIVED THE CAVE-IN!



THAT'S THAT! THIS SQUARES ME WITH FOSWELL! AND IT MAKES UP FOR MY SUSPECTING HIM OF BEING THE **CRIME-MASTER***!

NOW TO GET THESE PIX TO **JAMESON**-- ON THE DOUBLE!

* AS WE SAW A FEW ISSUES AGO-- STAN.



SECONDS LATER, THERE'S FRANTIC JUBILATION IN THE CITY ROOM OF THE **DAILY BUGLE**....!

THE **MASTER PLANNER** GANG CAPTURED-- THE IDENTITY OF THE LEADER REVEALED-- AND MY PAPER HAS THE STORY **FIRST!**

THAT'S **GREAT**, FOSWELL! I **KNEW** YOU COULD DO IT!

BETTER NOT PRAISE HIM **TOO** MUCH-- HE'S LIABLE TO HIT ME FOR A **RAISE!**

BUT YOU SHOULD HAVE GOTTEN **PICTURES!** IF ONLY WE HAD **PHOTOS!**



AND, SPEAKING OF PHOTOS...

HE MUST **HAVE** THE STORY BY NOW! HE'LL BE HUNGRY FOR MY PHOTOS!

DARN **LEG** IS STILL ACHING! I OUGHT TO STAY **OFF** IT!



OH! THERE'S **PETER!** I'VE BEEN **HOPING** TO-- BUT WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIS **LEG??** HE'S BEEN **HURT!**



PETER! PETER-- **WAIT!** IT'S ME-- **BETTY!** I WANT TO TALK TO YOU....!

OH **NO!** NOT NOW! I DON'T WANT TO HAVE TO FACE HER NOW!



HEARING PETER'S GRIMLY-SPOKEN WORDS HAS A DRAMATIC EFFECT ON BETTY BRANT... AN EFFECT HE *KNEW* IT WOULD HAVE! HER MIND RACES BACK TO HER *BROTHER*-- THE BROTHER WHOM SHE LOVED, BUT *LOST*-- BECAUSE HE TOO WOULDN'T GIVE UP THE DANGEROUS LIFE HE WANTED TO LEAD!





MAYBE YOU WOULDN'T BE INTERESTED IN THESE PIX-- THEY'RE ONLY A COMPLETE SERIES SHOWING THE ENTIRE CAPTURE OF THE MASTER PLANNER'S GANG!

PLUS, SOME SHOTS I MANAGED TO GET OF SPIDER-MAN ON THE SCENE!

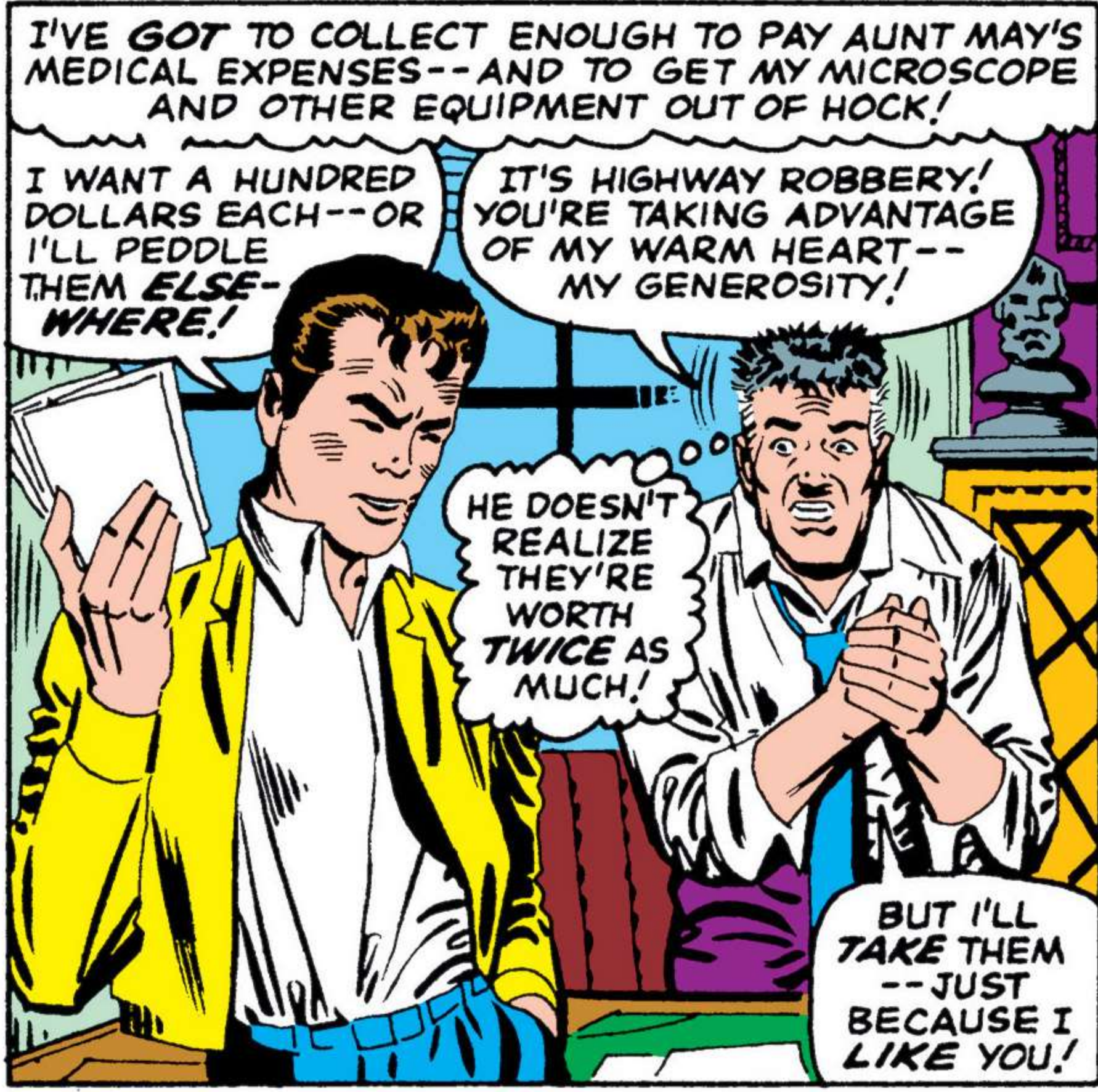
IT'S TRUE, THEN! THERE IS A SANTA CLAUS!



DON'T JUST STAND THERE, MY BOY! GIVE THEM TO ME! THERE'S STILL TIME TO MAKE THE FRONT PAGE! EVERY SECOND COUNTS! LET ME HAVE THEM!

WHOA! WE HAVEN'T AGREED ON A PRICE YET!

WE CAN SETTLE YOUR PAYMENT LATER! YEP! THAT'S WHY WE'LL SETTLE IT NOW! YOU KNOW HOW GENEROUS I AM!



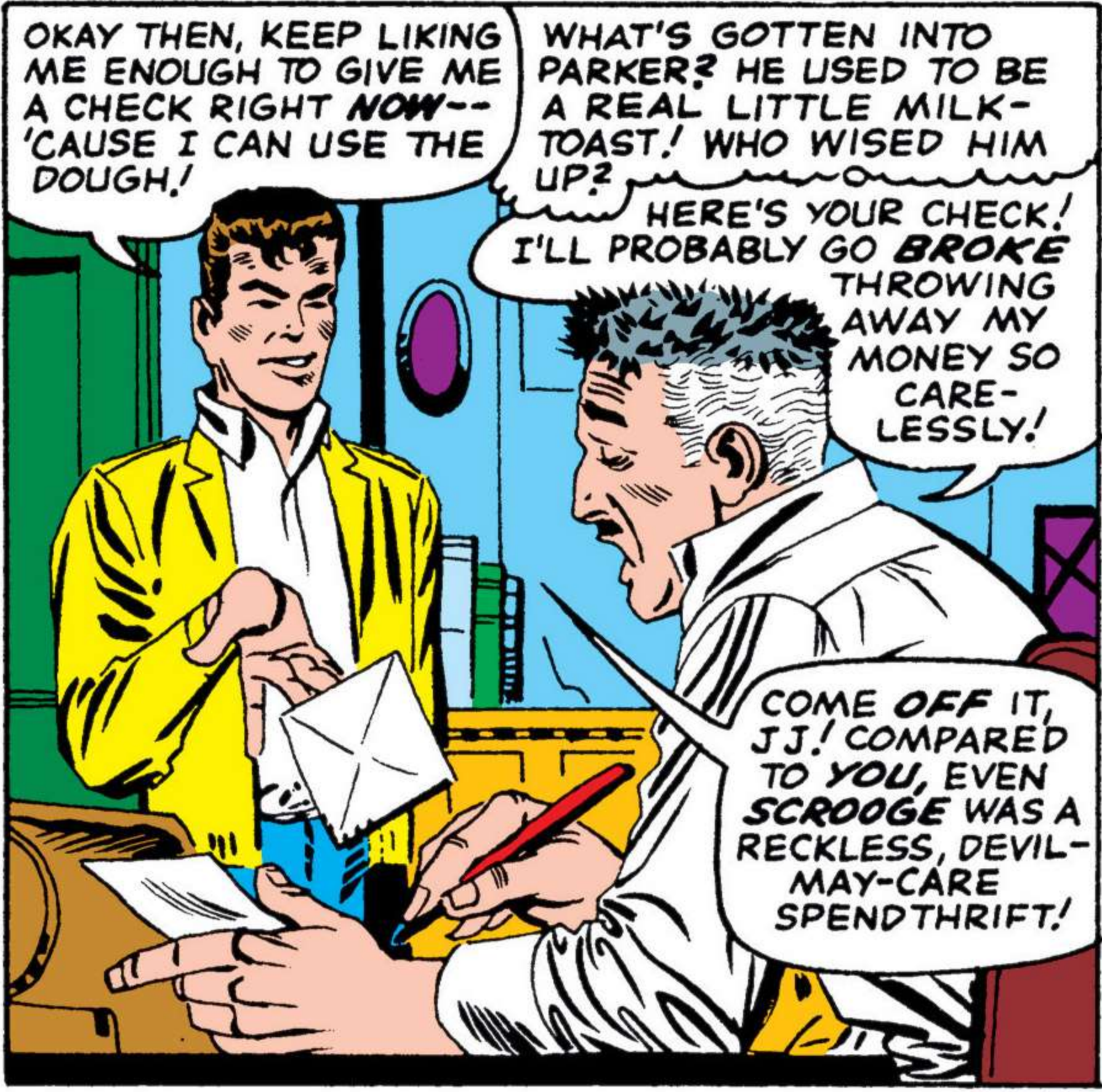
I'VE GOT TO COLLECT ENOUGH TO PAY AUNT MAY'S MEDICAL EXPENSES-- AND TO GET MY MICROSCOPE AND OTHER EQUIPMENT OUT OF HOCK!

I WANT A HUNDRED DOLLARS EACH--OR I'LL PEDdle THEM ELSEWHERE!

IT'S HIGHWAY ROBBERY! YOU'RE TAKING ADVANTAGE OF MY WARM HEART-- MY GENEROSITY!

HE DOESN'T REALIZE THEY'RE WORTH TWICE AS MUCH!

BUT I'LL TAKE THEM --JUST BECAUSE I LIKE YOU!



OKAY THEN, KEEP LIKING ME ENOUGH TO GIVE ME A CHECK RIGHT NOW-- 'CAUSE I CAN USE THE DOUGH!

WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO PARKER? HE USED TO BE A REAL LITTLE MILK-TOAST! WHO WISED HIM UP?

HERE'S YOUR CHECK! I'LL PROBABLY GO BROKE THROWING AWAY MY MONEY SO CARELESSLY!

COME OFF IT, J.J! COMPARED TO YOU, EVEN SCROOGE WAS A RECKLESS, DEVIL-MAY-CARE SPENDTHRIFT!



SHORTLY THEREAFTER, AT THE HOSPITAL...

IT'S TIME FOR THE DECISION ABOUT AUNT MAY NOW!

I-I'M ALMOST AFRAID TO FIND OUT! BUT I MUST!



UHHH-- MY LEG! IT'S ACHING MORE THAN EVER NOW!

BUT THIS IS NO TIME TO WORRY ABOUT THAT!

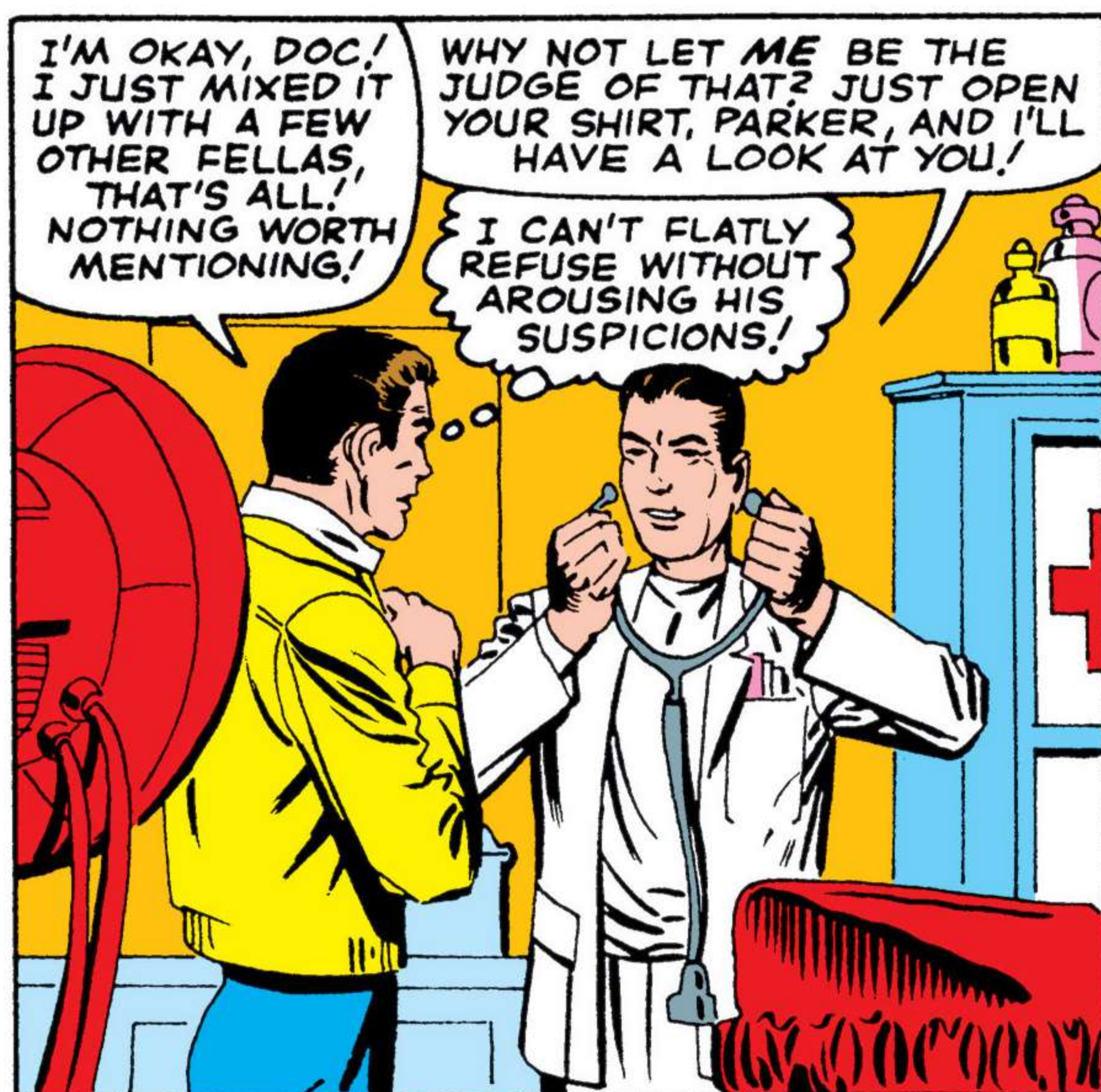
PARKER!



TELL ME, DOC--WHAT ABOUT MY AUNT? ARE THE TESTS COMPLETED? IS SHE-- IS SHE--??

WE'LL KNOW IN A FEW MINUTES, SON! THE LAST CHECK IS BEING MADE RIGHT NOW!

BUT, WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU? YOU'D BETTER LET ME LOOK AT YOU!



I'M OKAY, DOC!
I JUST MIXED IT
UP WITH A FEW
OTHER FELLAS,
THAT'S ALL!
NOTHING WORTH
MENTIONING!

WHY NOT LET ME BE THE
JUDGE OF THAT? JUST OPEN
YOUR SHIRT, PARKER, AND I'LL
HAVE A LOOK AT YOU!

I CAN'T FLATLY
REFUSE WITHOUT
AROUSING HIS
SUSPICIONS!



A FEW MINUTES LATER...
YOU SEEM SOUND ENOUGH,
BUT YOU'RE ON THE VERGE
OF COMPLETE EXHAUSTION!
YOU SHOULD BE IN BED!

I AM PRETTY TIRED,
DOC-- BUT I'VE JUST
GOT TO FIND OUT
ABOUT AUNT MAY,
FIRST!

LUCKY
FOR ME
HE DIDN'T
WANT TO
CHECK MY
BLOOD!



HERE, DRINK THIS, SON! IT'LL
RELAX YOU A BIT-- AND
REMEMBER-- GET SOME REST
AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!

DOC, ONCE I LEAVE
HERE, NOBODY'LL HAVE
TO TELL ME TWICE!



DOCTOR-- WE HAVE THE FINAL
SERIES OF TEST RESULTS ON
MAY PARKER! WILL YOU LOOK
AT THEM NOW?

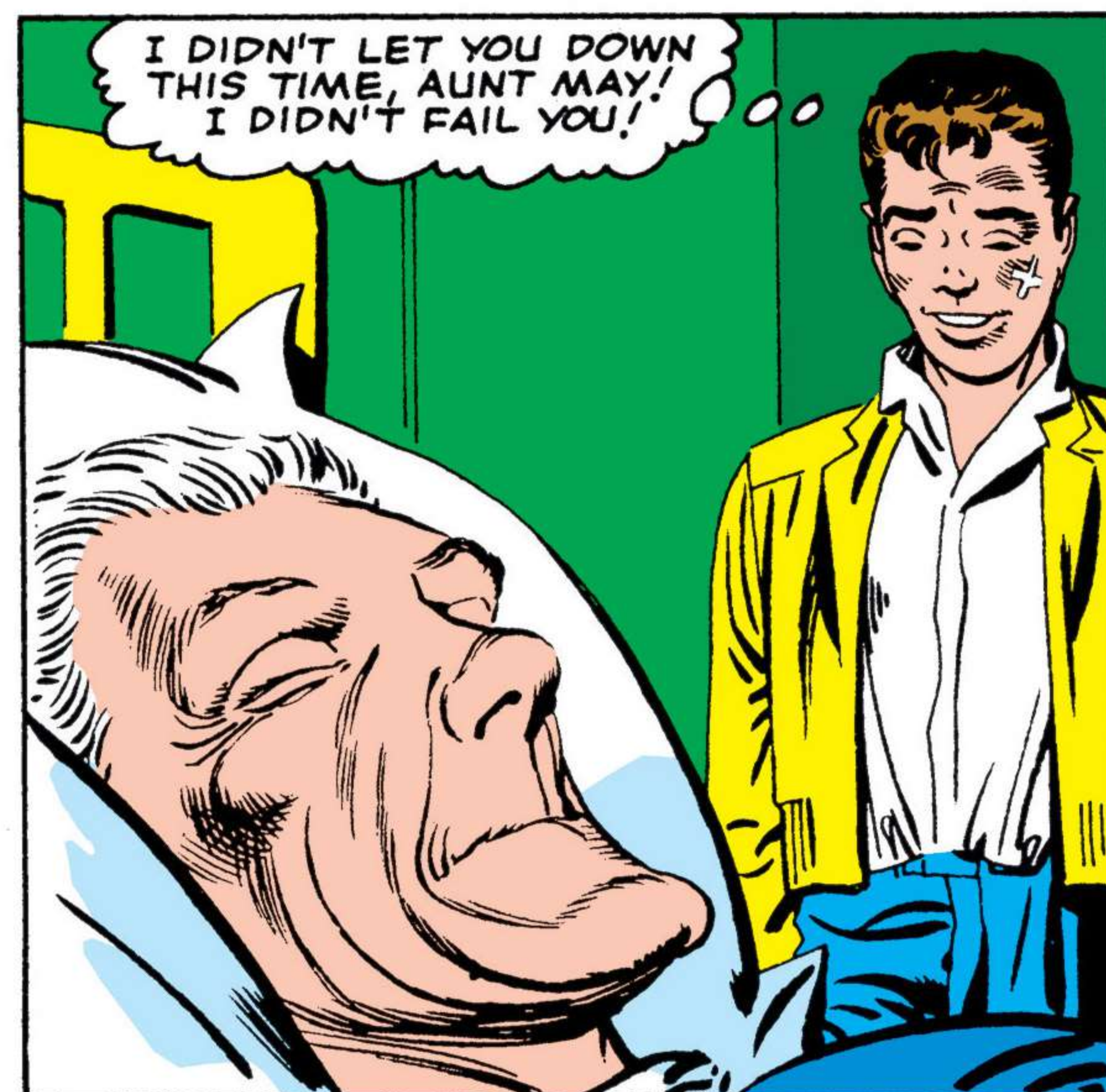
OF COURSE!
COME WITH
ME, MY BOY!

THIS IS IT!

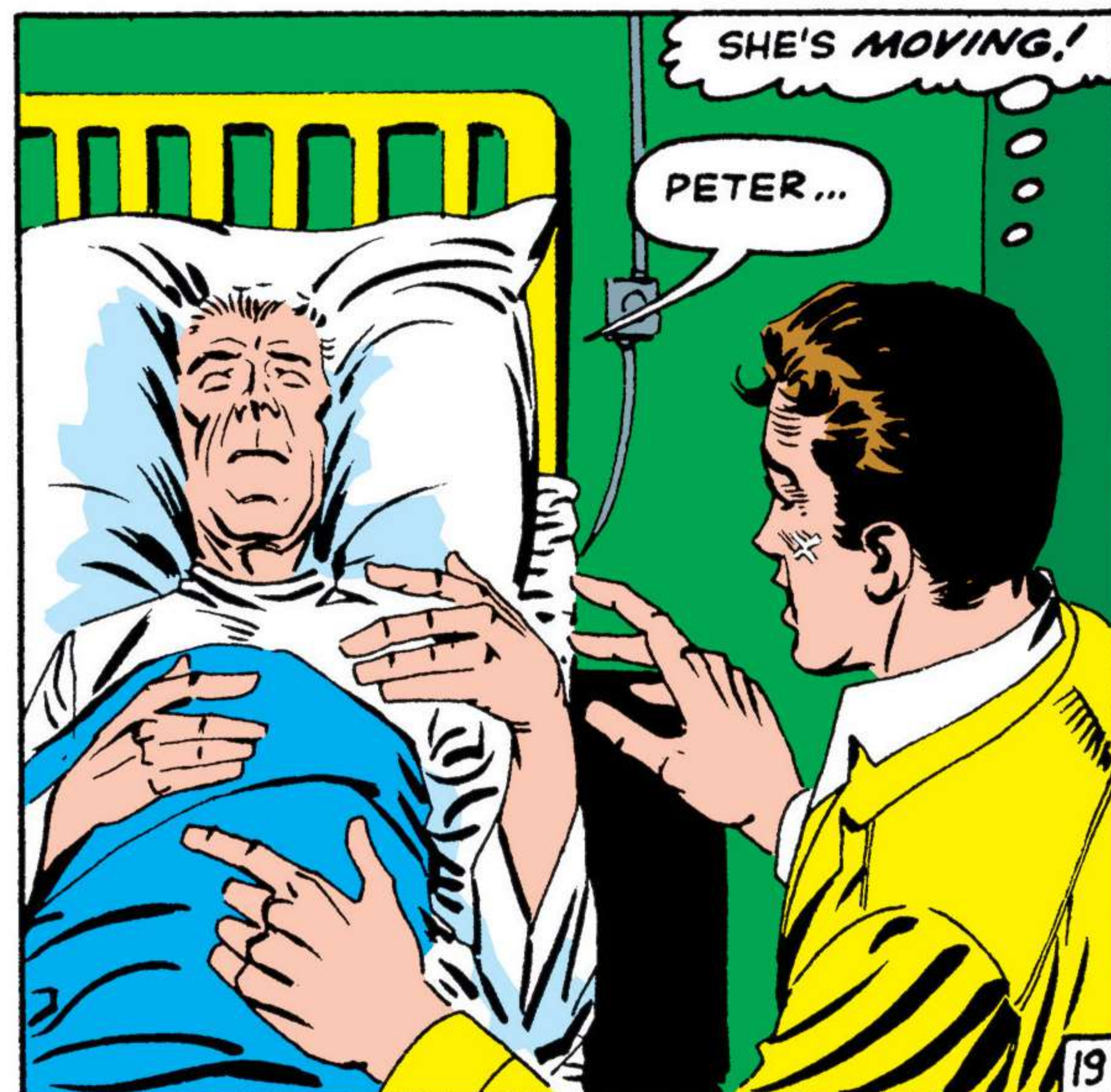


GOOD NEWS! THE SERUM HAS
STOPPED THE BLOOD DETERIORATION!
THE REPORTS ARE ALL FAVORABLE!

WITH LUCK,
WE EXPECT
HER TO
PULL THRU!

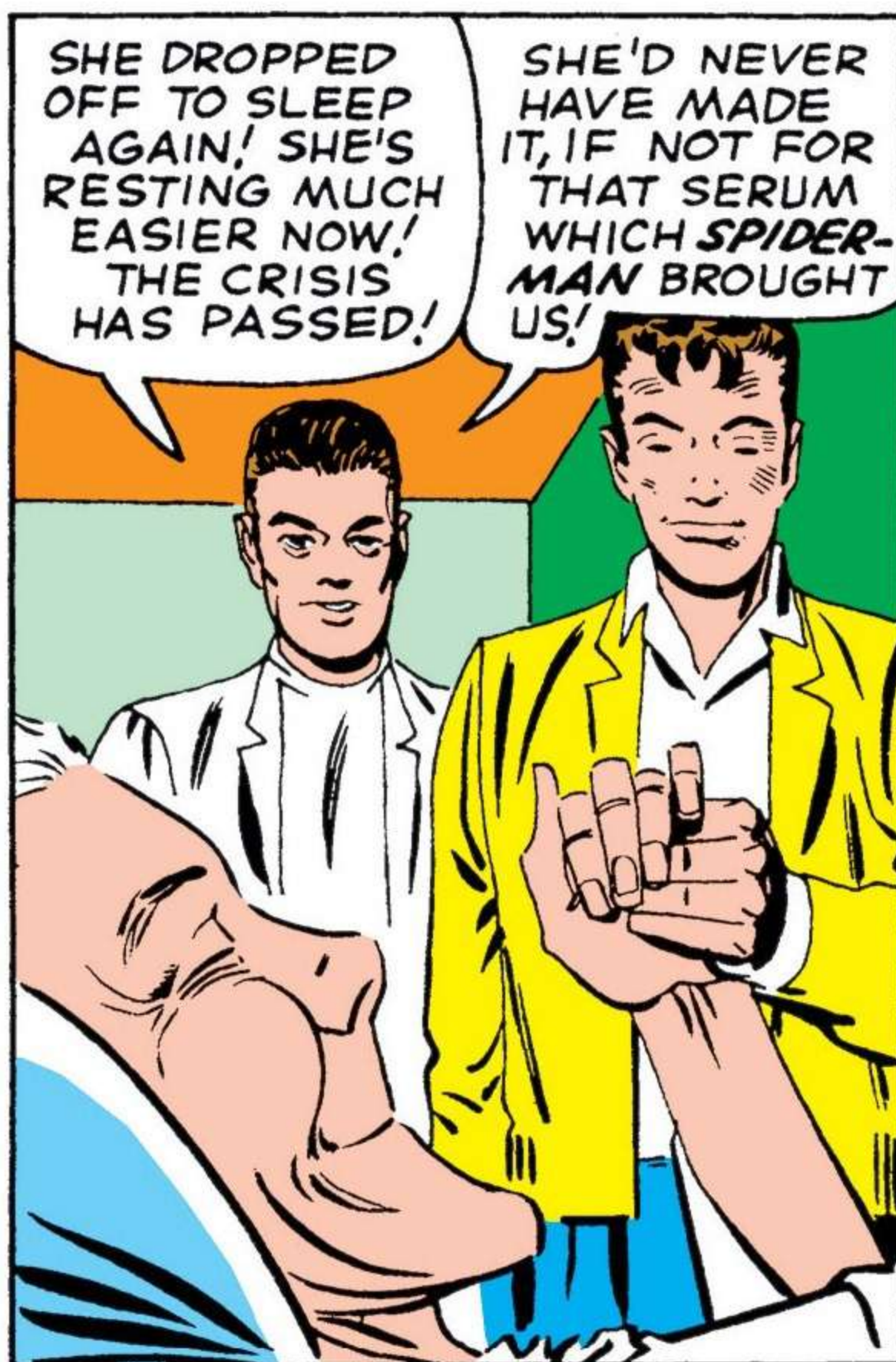


I DIDN'T LET YOU DOWN
THIS TIME, AUNT MAY!
I DIDN'T FAIL YOU!



SHE'S MOVING!

PETER...



NEXT ISSUE:

**THE
RETURN
OF...**



**KRAVEN,
THE
HUNTER!**

**'NUFF
SAID!!**



THE SPIDER'S WEB

Dear Stan and Steve,

Molten Man must return! Surely a mere jail can't hold any one as strong as he. I never knew so much action could be found in those eight pages where Spidey and Molty battled. Molty should become a regular like Doc Doom and the Sub-Mariner are in the F.F. The cover of issue #28 was excellent! Spidey and Doc Strange make a great team. Let Spidey get to know him better. Spider-Man is your best character and his book should have the title "The World's Greater than Greatest Comic Magazine!" I wish Marvel all the luck in the world.

Gary Nowell, 321 George Wright Homes
Paris, Texas

Many thanks, Gary! Looks like we're gonna need that luck, what with all the Brand X type imitations of our Marvel mags which seem to be popping up like weeds each day! Anyway, we couldn't put that title you suggest on the cover of SPIDER-MAN . . . next thing you know the KID COLT and MILLIE THE MODEL fans would demand equal time!

Dear Stan and Steve,

Hey, guys! We know that Steve must use some kind of magic pencils, but the cover art on SPIDER-MAN #28 is just too much! We wish to pick a bone with that certain fan who must be a writer for some Brand X comic. Where does he get off saying that your characters are copies?! You guys just happen to have the most down-to-earth, true-to-life stories of any outfit that makes comic mags! Now to get to the point of this epistle — here's our great idea: how about an animated series for the boob tube? You could call it "Marvel Madness" and have a story about a different super-character each week. How about that for a blockbuster idea?! We just finished Spidey's second annual, and it's fabulous! We can't figure where you guys get all your ideas, but don't stop now. This truly is the Marvel Age of Comics! 'Nuff said!

Bob & Tom Thompson, 1304 Oakley
Kansas City, Mo.

The Marvel Age of Comics! Now *there's* a catchy phrase! Why didn't *we* think of that? But look, fellas, if you want T.V. to produce our minor masterpieces, you've gotta stop referring to their medium as the "boob tube"! (Although we must confess that name really grabs us!)



Dear Stan and Steve,

As the blurb on the splash page of SPIDER-MAN #29 exclaimed, "Never Step on a Scorpion" was "a super-hero action thriller"! It claimed to be nothing else and wasn't. And, as such, it was terrific! Stan Lee's script was great pop-art stuff, and Steve Ditko turned in the best art job of his career. The real star of the magazine was the superb, knock-down-drag-'em-outer slugfest Spider-Man enjoyed with the Scorpion. Usually I don't dig Marvel's "after Nature" villains, but the Scorpion is an exception. Unlike others, he is more than a nifty gimmick, more than just another thug with a power. Also, he is rotten to the ever-

lovin' core, which seems to be something new in this age of poor, misunderstood cut-throats. To give the crowning touch to this ish was Spider-Man himself, who is about the best single hero in the Marvel stock. Keep issues like this one coming! Guy H. Lillian III, 718 Spring Drive
Walnut Creek, Calif. 94596

We intend to, Guy! After all these years, it's getting kinda habit-forming!

Dear Stan and Steve,

SPIDER-MAN #29 was the usual Marvel masterwork. Stan came through with flying colors again on the story. The title was way out! But even the great can have its faults. By this I mean that the Scorpion should have at least put Spidey out cold, just for a few minutes. Don't get me wrong now. I would rather turn in my M.M.M.S. membership than to see Webhead's career end that way! But just for once let Spidey lose a battle, huh? Please give this some thought.

Ron Patton, 610 Alton St.
Pontiac, Mich.

Ron, do you know how many letters we get each day telling us that Spidey doesn't win often enough?? You're the first Marvelian to come up with the opposite beef in months! It just goes to show, no matter how hard we try—we can always manage to make *someone* hate us!



Dear Stan and Steve,

Just finished reading your latest masterpiece, SPIDER-MAN #29. As usual it was great. I don't know how you get those whacky titles. Well, let's get right down to business. Something really bugs us—every time Spidey grabs one of your crazy villains, why doesn't his webbing shoot all over the poor self-respecting baddie? I wish you would clear up this business between Ned Leeds, Betty Brant, and Petey! I'd like to see them get married! (Petey and Betty, that is.) But I can't ask everything of you poor, hard-working guys! Anyway, I don't think you'd do it! You had some great action scenes in #29; for instance, page 16, panel 3, and the cover. When you're reading a Brand Echh comic, you're just reading a comic book, but when you're reading a Marvel mag, you stand a little taller, walk a little straighter, and talk a little prouder. I was just looking thru #29 and found a mistake. (Not that I could do better, I'm just giving a little constructive criticism.) On pages 5 and 6 you forgot his underarm webbing—sounds like some kind of deodorant! Other than that, the story was fantastic! Love ya all!

Matt Emmens & Jimmy Luzzi
Nutley, N. J.

It's mutual, fellas! And we really dug that phrase of yours — "stand a little taller, walk a little straighter, etc."—'specially since Stan himself wrote it on the M.M.M.S. letter of greeting last year!



Dear Stan and Steve,

SPIDEY #29 was a letdown. Sorry, Stan, but you asked for it. When you go all out on Spidey like you do a lot of the time, then you almost have to keep it up. It makes any regular issue a letdown. This doesn't mean to stop writing great stories, but I'm afraid that's the way a frantic fan's mind works. I'm afraid the title of the tale was pretty bad. I'd just as soon it had been "Scorpy Returns" or some such drollery. Scorpy still isn't much of a villain—he's so much like the Lizard, who was a neat villain, that you should drop him and just let that scientist lapse back into Lizzy every once in a while—and his costume is miserable. I'm curious how JJJ could prove he put a dime in the parking meter. The way Scorp was defeated wasn't too hot. Now, two big gripes—either get Betty out of Pete's life and let him concentrate on Liz or let Betty and Pete really be serious about each other. Remember Spidey #9? The way that ended is the way their love should be. You're making the two of them as bad as Matt and Karen in DAREDEVIL, and this sickening half-half business is making me sick! Okay? Okay. I know it's too late to tell you this, as you've already written it, but don't you dare kill off Aunt May as indicated by the end of the story. Spidey has enough trouble as it is. Understand?? Mickey Schwaberow, 5373 Gold Drive Santa Rosa, Calif. 95405

Even if we *didn't* understand, Mick, we'd be afraid to admit it to you! You'd probably write us *another* letter as bossy as this one! Anyway, we did one thing right—as of this writing, Aunt May is still among the living! (Of course, if anything happens to her later on, we'll leave town before you find out!)

Dear Stan and Steve,

I have just picked up Stan's fourth issue of MONSTERS UNLIMITED. It's the funniest monster mag on the stands. I especially liked the gag on the fourth page—"Darn! We missed the Man from U.N.C.L.E. again!" SPIDEY is my favorite Marvel mag. Keep up the good work—'nuff said! Mike Sohns, 6530 N. 49th Ct. Milwaukee, Wisc. 53223

Glad you liked M.U., Mike, but it's a good thing we didn't blink our eyes when reading your dazzling document—we mighta missed the reference to poor ol' Spidey!

Dear Stan and Steve,

I wish to inform you that SPIDER-MAN #29 was just not up to Marvel standards. Sure, the title could have only come from the Marvel bullpen, "Never Step on a Scorpion," and the return of the Scorpion was simply genius. But then you ruined it with three letters, namely JJJ. Yes, Jameson was not too bad at the start, but then he put out that extra saying Spider-Man and Scorpy were a team just to protect himself. I really got mad! This, when Spidey saves his life. When the police arrive he makes as if he did something great and gets all the praise. I just wish he could have gotten a few knocks in the head from Scorpy's tail. That's my gripe—besides that, your mags are simply marvelous!! J. P. Goetz, 199 Paisley St. Guelph, Ont., Canada

But J.P., we always thought you're *supposed* to hate our bubbly bad-guys! Think how you'd *really* complain if we made him a lovable little sunbeam!

Dear Stan and Steve,

When I read SPIDER-MAN #29 about the Molten Man, I naturally assumed that such a happening (an alloy enveloping a man and increasing his strength) was virtually impossible. However, a few weeks later I read in an old issue of SCIENCE DIGEST that a man's strength may be increased tenfold by applying a metal "exo-skeleton" to his body. Congratulations on your realism—accidental or otherwise! Incidentally, a couple of my friends and I have formed a library of Marvel Comics, and we're very proud of our collection. Mel Brown, 280 Riverside Drive New York, N.Y. 10025

You *should* be, Mr. Brown! The proud titles majestically published under the regal banner of Marvel Comics are acknowledged everywhere to be the finest ever! (Ever published by MARVEL, anyway!) And a special no-prize to Science Digest for managing to keep up with our bullpen whiz kids!

Dear Stan and Steve,

It's evident to me from reading your past letter columns that many readers don't like the style of Spider-Man artist Steve Ditko. Well, I'm not going to say he's the best cartoonist there is, but he has a quality that everyone seems to overlook. Most artists try to make their characters look noble and graceful at all times. No matter what the hero is doing he must look well-poised. Mr. Ditko dares to break the mold. If at any time Spidey is falling down, he doesn't strike a ballet pose—he falls flat on his face; arms and legs flailing wildly. If he gets conked on the noggin (behind his back, of course), he doesn't sprawl out gracefully—he crumples into a heap. Even though he does have spider-agility, I feel that Spider-Man should take a spill every now and then. I say more power to you, Steve Ditko! I'd rather have Spidey look the rough, tough super-hero he is instead of an animated piece of sculpture, anytime.

Roger Post, 4846 Mt. Frissell Drive San Diego, Calif.

We agree, Rog! Nobody can take his lumps like Spidey—and that seems to be the way most of you web-spinners want it!

Dear Stan and Steve,

The latest SPIDER-MAN finally goaded me into writing. I think Spidey is a great character but he seems more stupid every issue. (Not new errors, but he just blunders so consistently in his personal life.) He has troubles making money—why doesn't he collect a reward or two? He could keep another bank account to avoid questions or just sock it away in a cookie jar! Peter couldn't spend too much without arousing suspicion, of course, but it would help. The bulk could be put in a special fund to sue JJJ for defamation of character, assault, and battery. The issue with JJJ's robot seemed too illegal for my tastes. In the next MARVEL TALES ANNUAL, why not take a page or two to describe the rise of Marvel for fans like me who came in late? Also, how about telling about the prisons where your super-villains are kept? Do you know that in all of South Bend there is only one store which sells Marvels? Auggh!!

P. Michael Cohen, Rm 329, St. Joseph Hall

Notre Dame University, Notre Dame, Ind. 46656

Ah, but think of the glorious niche that one store is carving for itself in the annals of Marvelology! Long will its name be remembered—nay, venerated! It shall be inscribed on a special Marvel plaque, and ceremoniously deposited in one of our far-flung Marvel time capsules—as soon as someone *tells* us which swingin' store it is!

—And now, a final word! We don't want to over-sell our next ish, so all we'll say is this: If you've got the same kind of tastes as we (and we suspect that you do), then you undoubtedly enjoyed this issue! Well, take it from us, the one that follows is every bit as good! There! How's *that* for the soft sell? We didn't tell you how *sensational* the story is—how *fabulous* the artwork is—how much *more dangerous than ever* the evil Kraven is!! Nope, we didn't say any of that, and we hope you appreciate our restraint!

—So, till we meet again, keep your webs untangled, and face front! Remember, when you're a Marvel madman, the eyes of the world are upon you! See ya next ish!